

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24 1990

LAST MONTH'S
AVERAGE DAILY SALE
424,000
No 63,611

Major hints taxes may have to rise

News on interest rates is bleak

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Taxes may have to rise in the Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer indicated yesterday as he gave homeowners and businesses a bleak warning that interest rates will stay high for several months.

In the clearest warning that his first Budget on March 20 will be even tougher than expected, Mr John Major said the economy was only "turning the corner" and had by no means fully recovered.

While he looked forward to the day when interest rates could come down, "I do not see that day as being imminent," he told the Commons. "And I do not think it will be wise for anyone to act in the belief that it will be."

In remarks with obvious implications for his taxation judgement, Mr Major disclosed that this year's budget surplus would be lower than forecast, with debt repayment

less than the £12.5 billion projected at the time of the autumn statement.

Mr Major's speech - which raised fears of another possible rise in mortgage rates - was intended to deflate market hopes that interest rates would come down around the time of the Budget.

Senior Treasury sources said cuts should not be expected for the next few

The Halifax Building Society, the biggest mortgage lender, said yesterday that mortgage rates will come under increasing pressure if base rates do not fall in the foreseeable future. Page 23

Parliament 11

months and admitted the budget surplus figure meant tax increases could not be ruled out.

Mr Major said tight monetary policy must be supported by tight fiscal policy. Much lower-than-forecast corporation tax receipts and lower-than-expected debt repayments by local authorities were the main reason for the reduced surplus.

Mr Major's speech was followed by a searing attack on the Government's economic strategy by Mr John Smith, the shadow Chancellor.

He said people were beginning to realize "that things have gone very badly wrong in the British economy." Britain had the highest balance of payments deficit in history, the highest rate of inflation in the main European Community countries and its interest rates were the highest of the leading industrial nations.

The Chancellor was hoping to stagger through the months ahead in the hope that when the Prime Minister called the next election the economy would not look too unfavourable, Mr Smith said.

"We end the 1980s disorganized, uncertain, confused, not knowing what govern-

ment policy is."

Mr Major told MPs: "I am afraid there can be no question whatsoever of an early relaxation of policy. Interest rates will stay high for some time to come."

He added: "I know this message will be disappointing to those homeowners and businessmen who have been feeling the pinch for some time; but I can only say that I think it would be even more unfair to them - and to everyone else - to relax policy now and risk the problem recurring later."

He coupled his warning with a plea to industry to restrain labour costs, admitting that the Government had still not "exorcised the inflationary psychology of our economy, which was the curse of the 1970s and is lurking on the sidelines again." Wage increases had to be affordable unless people were to "price themselves out of jobs."

Keeping pressure on labour costs was not something the Government could do for businesses: "Businessmen know far better than government what they need to do. I hope they will have the sense of self-interest to do it."

Mr Major said no one should doubt that interest rates were working; there was plenty of evidence to prove it. "But reassuring as these signs are, they simply tell us that we are turning the corner."

"They most certainly do not tell us that we are back where we wish to be. That will take time. So I am afraid there can be no question whatsoever of an early relaxation of policy. Interest rates will stay high for some time to come."

Mr Major said industry entered the 1990s in a "vigorous and healthy" condition. "Our prospects for the nineties are excellent. We will bring the economy back on track as a preparation for prosperity in a decade of promise."

Schoolgirls wait for scarf ruling



Aisha and Fatima Alvi at home last night as governors at the Altrincham Grammar School for Girls in Manchester met to decide whether they should be allowed to wear headscarves. Earlier in the day the girls, aged 15 and 14, were turned away from classes for maintaining their right to wear the scarves.

£310m purchase by GEC

Ferranti sells defence systems division

By Angela Mackay and Michael Evans

Ferranti International is selling its defence systems division to GEC for £310 million, just 24 hours after winning a share of the £2 billion European Fighter Aircraft radar contract.

GEC's takeover of Ferranti's electronic and defence systems was "the crucial ingredient" that persuaded West Germany to drop its opposition to the company's radar system for the four-engine European Fighter Aircraft programme, it emerged last night.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Defence, told Dr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German defence minister, of the takeover in London on Monday.

The Germans had questioned Ferranti's financial viability even before it was disclosed that the company was the victim of a £215 million fraud by one of its

subsidiaries. They regard GEC, which has a massive cash mountain and which joined with the German company Siemens to take over Plessey last year, in an entirely different light.

The deal will give GEC a commanding position in radar manufacture in Europe. Lord Weinstock's company outbid the French group Thomson CSF, which two weeks ago had offered about £200 million for the division.

The division employs about 6,500 people, mostly in Edinburgh.

The sale should ensure Ferranti's independence after four months of struggling to evade its creditors after the company discovered a £215 million hole in its assets caused by three fake defence contracts with Pakistan, China and United Arab Emirates.

Sir Derek Alun-Jones, Fer-

ranti's chairman, said he had been negotiating the deal for the past two weeks.

"It is a fair deal for them and us. We come a lot closer to solving our problems and GEC gets a big head start in radar and navigation systems," Sir Derek said.

Although the final details of the radar contract have still to be worked out, the financial backing of GEC made it possible for Dr Stoltenberg to return to Bonn with at least an understanding in principle that Ferranti would be chosen for the contract.

Privately the West Germans have always accepted that Ferranti's new generation ECR-90 radar was preferable to the other option, an advanced version of an American system being developed by a subsidiary of Daimler-Benz, the West German company, and GEC-Marconi. They recognized that the

ECR-90 radar was more advanced and more capable.

Italy and Spain, the two other partners in the European Fighter Aircraft programme, have always supported the Ferranti radar proposal. Until the announcement of the GEC takeover, West Germany was even considering going its own way and using the Daimler-Benz/GEC-Marconi system, which is based on the APG-65 radar built by the Hughes company and used in the US F18 Hornet jet fighter.

Telefunken System Technik, the Daimler-Benz subsidiary, was already producing the Hughes radar under licence. Sources last night said the West German argument about Ferranti's financial state disappeared once GEC moved in. The GEC takeover meant the huge electronics company was bound to benefit from the radar contract, whoever won the deal.

New curbs on live UK cattle

By Peter Guilford
in Brussels and
Paul Wilkinson,
London

Emergency new curbs on the export of live cattle from Britain will be introduced by the European Commission in a fortnight in the first joint European effort to stop bovine spongiform encephalopathy

US beef ban 2

(BSE), or "mad cow disease", spreading across the Channel.

The move was approved by the EC in Brussels yesterday despite strong opposition from Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture.

It was immediately condemned by the National Farmers Union and the Meat and Livestock Commission. Both organizations warned that the decision could have a Continued on page 22, col 7

Faceless genius

● Hailed as "the greatest living writer in the English-speaking world", Thomas Pynchon is also its most reclusive. As Britain awaits the release in this country of his first novel in 17 years, we profile the man who once sent a stand-up comedian to accept a major award on his behalf: see page 18

● Three readers shared yesterday's £2,000 daily prize (see page 3). Today's chance to win £2,000: Page 27



● The Times Crossword is 60 years old next week. To mark the event, we shall be publishing The Times Diamond Jubilee Crossword, with a holiday to India and £1,000 cash for the winner, plus other prizes. The first clues will appear next Monday, so order your copy of The Times now

Gower move

After 15 years with Leicestershire, David Gower, the former England cricket captain, has agreed to play for Hampshire next season. Page 44

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BBC criticized for 'Games ban'

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The BBC is refusing to allow other British broadcasters to cover the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand, it was claimed yesterday.

Rival radio and television companies are being banned from the stadium in Auckland, refused access to press conferences with British athletes and could not cover this morning's opening ceremony because of the BBC's interpretation of the exclusive rights deal it has acquired.

Mr John Perkins, editor of Independent Radio News, which is trying to supply coverage of the Games, said that the BBC's behaviour was "totally hypocritical". BBC radio said that the Corporation had exclusive rights to the Games and it had explained the situation to IRN some months ago.

BBC TV said last night that the BBC deal for exclusive UK terrestrial TV and radio rights had been agreed in 1986. "We are puzzled by the charges."

One man died when his fishing dinghy was overturned off Mudeford, Dorset. He was Mr Russell Broom, aged 22, a non-swimmer of Avon View Parade, Burton, Christchurch, Dorset.

His fishing partner, Mr Philip Etheridge, aged 23, was also found on

the beach. He was taken to Bournemouth General Hospital, suffering from severe shock and hypothermia.

An inquiry was under way after another man, Mr William Cann, aged 58, an auxiliary coastguard, plunged to his death over a 100ft cliff while

watching a rescue exercise near Trebarth Strand on the north Cornwall coast.

A search for two men presumed drowned in the Eke at Starcross, Devon, ended when their dinghy was found capsized.

A Brixham coastguard spokesman said it was believed the boat may have capsized when the engine failed. The

two men were Mr Paul Fletcher, aged 42, and Mr Roy Mattick, aged 46, both from Teignmouth, Devon. Mr Fletcher's car was found by the river. The dinghy was discovered 600 yards from Starcross pier.

They had left their homes on Monday night to take the dinghy to a trawler moored in the river. The Exmouth lifeboat and a coastguard helicopter from Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire, were called in after the alarm was raised by one of the men's wives.

As winds brought havoc to roads throughout the country an RAF helicopter from Brawdy, Dyfed, rescued nine men from the Spanish trawler Soniera which ran aground in Bantry Bay, Co Cork.

Forecast 22

BSB 'on air by end of April'

By Matthew Bond

British Satellite Broadcasting, the television venture, intends to start broadcasting by the end of April, according to Mr Anthony Symonds-Gooding, its chief executive.

At a press conference to announce that a final £900 million of financing was "in principle" in place, Mr Symonds-Gooding said that a number of launch dates were being discussed "between the end of March and the end of April". But he would not be drawn on whether BSB was planning to launch all five of its new channels at once.

Satellite dishes for the service are expected to retail at around £80. The receiver box is expected to sell at £250-£300, but heavy discounting is expected early on as BSB seeks to rein back the 15-month lead of Sky Television.

Full report, page 23

Three killed as strike halts Baku

From Michael Binyon, Moscow

Three people were killed in new clashes in Baku between Soviet soldiers and Azerbaijanis, it was announced yesterday as a general strike again brought the city to a standstill and militants threatened to start a "real guerrilla war".

General Anatoli Dubyniak, the military commander, said that unidentified "extremists" on Monday attacked a convoy of demobilized troops and women and children. Two soldiers and a woman died and a civilian was wounded.

Later a military lorry and patrols were fired on, and Tass reported that shooting was continuing in several parts of the city. It said crowds were still rampaging through residential districts elsewhere in Azerbaijan, smashing statues of Lenin and pillaging local party headquarters.

The general strike, called by

the Popular Front, all but paralysed Baku, the fourth largest city in the Soviet Union with almost two million people. Local journalists

Romania's governing National Salvation Front decided yesterday to contest the general election to be held on May 20. United Nations observers will be invited to monitor the poll. Page 9

Letters 15

joined the stoppage. In other towns there were also strikes and mass protest meetings.

The wave of anti-Soviet anger appeared to be still swelling. Soldiers have received death threats, and are not being served in many shops, Soviet officials said. *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported that banners in the city said: "Army out of Baku".

Four killed as violent storms mar mild January

By Michael Horsnell

Weathermen yesterday predicted continued wet and windy weather as storms marred the balmy January since the mid-17th century and four people were killed.

The most powerful gust, 115mph, was recorded at an automatic weather station in the Cairngorms, in Scotland, while nearly half an inch of rain fell in one hour shortly before dawn at Birmingham Airport.

One man died when his fishing dinghy was overturned off Mudeford, Dorset. He was Mr Russell Broom, aged 22, a non-swimmer of Avon View Parade, Burton, Christchurch, Dorset.

His fishing partner, Mr Philip Etheridge, aged 23, was also found on

the beach. He was taken to Bournemouth General Hospital, suffering from severe shock and hypothermia.

An inquiry was under way after another man, Mr William Cann, aged 58, an auxiliary coastguard, plunged to his death over a 100ft cliff while

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They had left their homes on Monday night to take the dinghy to a trawler moored in the river. The Exmouth lifeboat and a coastguard helicopter from Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire, were called in after the alarm was raised by one of the men's wives.

As winds brought havoc to roads throughout the country an RAF helicopter from Brawdy, Dyfed, rescued nine men from the Spanish trawler Soniera which ran aground in Bantry Bay, Co Cork.

The fishermen were winched to safety and taken to hospital in Limerick, while their boat was towed to safety by another trawler.

Storms in Wales blocked a railway line between Aberdare and Abercynon, Mid Glamorgan, after the Taff flooded track. Police issued flood warnings on the Cyron, Neath, Conwy and Mawddach rivers after a night of torrential rain.

A ferry heading from the Isle of Wight to Southampton ran into trouble in high winds. The Red Funnel ferry Red Norris, with 32 passengers on board, became entangled round a mooring buoy off Cowes for an hour. Other vessels went to its assistance in gales gusting up to Force 12.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

MoD to do more for minorities

The Ministry of Defence promised yesterday to do more to recruit people from the ethnic minorities into the Armed Services, after a report said that young blacks and Asians were shunning a career in the forces, partly because of the fear of racial discrimination (Michael Evans writes).

The report, commissioned by the MoD from Peat Marwick McLintock, management consultants, recommended 21 areas where selection and recruiting procedures could be improved to attract more blacks and Asians into the three Armed Services. However, one of its recommendations, which called for black or Asian recruits to be sent to units which already had servicemen from their own cultural backgrounds, was rejected by the MoD.

In a written Commons answer yesterday, Mr Archie Hamilton, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said that the Ministry of Defence intended to adopt a policy of giving "positive encouragement" to applications from members of the ethnic minorities.

£1.15m college pledge

The fortunes of the Government's troubled city technology college programme showed further signs of recovery yesterday with the announcement that Derby will be the site of the sixteenth. The Landau Foundation, a private educational charity, is to put up £1.15 million to help pay the capital cost of establishing a CTC on a city centre site. It will open for pupils in September 1991. The first CTC, at Kingshurst, Solihull, opened in 1988.

Bank staff worried

Britain's biggest banking union yesterday called on the Government to act against increasing violence in a report showing there is a raid on a bank or building society every working day (Tim Jones writes). Mr Keith Mills, general secretary of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, said: "Something like five out of every six incidents involves a shotgun or imitation weapon." Bank employees were increasingly subject to deranged robbers influenced by drugs.

Journalists go back

Journalists at the *Daily Record* and *Sunday Mail* in Glasgow returned to work yesterday pending a meeting in London today over the dismissal of a union leader (William Peckin writes). Production of the *Record* was disrupted on Monday night when staff met to discuss the sacking of Mr John Finlayson, the National Union of Journalists' father of chapel (shop steward) for the two papers. Mr Finlayson was dismissed after refusing to attend a disciplinary hearing.

EC cash to boost jobs

Mr Des O'Malley, the Irish Minister for Industry, yesterday unveiled a European Community package worth IR£790 million which, it is hoped, will generate 100,000 jobs over the next five years. Mr O'Malley said the money from the regional and social funds would "give a major boost to investment by doubling the financial resources available to the Export Board and Irish Goods Council". The minister also predicted a 7 per cent rise in exports to Britain this year.

Writ before launch

The *Independent on Sunday*, to be launched this weekend, might have notched up a record even in the current spate of libel actions by attracting writs before its launch (Frances Gibb writes). Mr James Gattward, chief executive of TVS Entertainment, has issued writs against the new paper after two dummy issues ran a long profile on TVS and the problems relating to its acquisition of MTM in the US. The dummies are designed mainly to go to advertising agencies.

Labour steps up Militant purge with more charges

By Philip Webster and Nigel Williamson

Labour leaders are expected today to step up their purge against the Militant Tendency by laying charges against five party members in Glasgow who are alleged to be members of the sect.

As Labour organizers prepare their inquiry into the Militant Tendency on the Wirral in the wake of Mr Frank Field's deselection, the ruling national executive committee is expected to initiate action leading to the expulsion of the five after a year-long internal investigation into the activities of the Glasgow Pollok constituency.

In another development, a deselected left-wing MP is threatening legal action against the NEC over its alleged refusal to investigate his complaints of irregularities in his removal.

Mr John Hughes, Labour MP for Coventry North East, one of three MPs to have been ousted in the present re-election round, said last night: "I drew my complaints to the attention of Neil Kinnock and he promised me that anything I was entitled to under the constitution he would uphold."

"I don't think I have been treated in a constitutional fashion."

In a reference to the treatment by the NEC of Mr Field, he added: "I didn't have a bout of histrionics or threaten a by-election. I tried to keep it within the party but it obviously doesn't work that way."

A Labour Party spokesman said that Mr Hughes's complaints had been fully investigated by regional organizers, who had decided there was no case to answer.

The Glasgow inquiry has already led to the expulsion of Mr Tommy Sheridan, a leading campaigner for non-payment of the poll tax.

Of the further five facing charges of Militant membership, one is understood to be Mr Sheridan's sister, Lynn.

The action will be presented as further evidence of Labour's determination to root out what it calls the Militant menace.

The investigation into the deselection of Mr Field will be started by Mrs Joyce Gould, Labour's director of organization, after a final go-ahead from the NEC.

Although a dossier by Mr Field deals with the activities of some 40 hard-left activists in Birkenhead and the neighbouring constituency of Wallasey, it is likely that charges of Militant membership will eventually be brought against about 12 of them.

Mr Field's deselection is increasing pressure within the Labour Party for removing the guaranteed union involvement in the selection of parliamentary candidates and to introduce a one member one vote system. That is understood to be the wish of Mr Kinnock.

Surprise visitor to the classroom

MICHAEL POWELL



Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, with Yuk-King Tong, aged 6, during a surprise visit to Surrey Square School, in Walworth, south London, yesterday. The inner-city school has a record of educational excellence.

Union chiefs avert ambulance strike

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

National leaders of the ambulance dispute won a significant victory yesterday when they persuaded shop stewards in London to drop their calls for a national strike ballot.

Shop stewards from 71 stations voted by 57 to 12 against calling for national action and by 59 to nine against a ballot for an indefinite strike by 2,000 London crew members.

The result, after a 3½-hour

meeting, endorsed the leaders' consistent line that an all-out strike would lose the unions the considerable public support identified by opinion polls.

It will also isolate crews in some areas who believe the only way to resolve the dispute is for a total strike to stretch police and army services to the limit.

Armed with this vote of

confidence in the way they have conducted the 19-week dispute, the five union leaders will meet tomorrow to determine how they can persuade Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Secretary of State for Health, to improve the pay offer of 9 per cent over 18 months.

Mr Roger Poole, the unions' chief negotiator, called on crews that have been taking unofficial action to resume an emergency service within the TUC guidelines immediately.

"We will not provoke a strike. Britain's ambulance staff are united to achieve a fair settlement and nothing will divert us from that."

"We think the current action is the best way to win the dispute", he added.

CORRECTION

Judges at Wood Green Crown Court, London, imposed prison sentences in 38 per cent of cases heard in 1988, compared with 69 per cent at Mold, Clwyd, and not the reverse as stated yesterday.

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US troops in front line of transatlantic beef battle

The 305,000 US troops based in Britain and the rest of Europe devour beef worth \$65 million each year in a mountain of steaks and burgers.

This explains why such irate letters are suddenly whizzing across the Atlantic. Starting this year, the US intends to boycott all European beef and fly in the meat from America.

This has nothing to do with BSE, the "mad cow" disease afflicting

British cattle. It is retaliation for the European Community's 1988 ban on American beef that has been hormone-treated.

Almost unnoticed at the time, Senator Tom Harkin, of cattle-thick Iowa, tagged an amendment on to the Defence Spending Bill last autumn which means, in effect, that US servicemen based at RAF Woodbridge must eat beef reared 4,000 miles away

rather than fresh Suffolk cow. To be fair, the Administration in Washington is not keen on what Congress has asked it to do, but that is because of the expense, not the principle. Shipping the beef will cost a minimum of \$10 million annually.

Senator Harkin's amendment also stipulated that Washington should provide \$27 million in subsidies for the US beef over the next three years

to make up for the loss of EC beef subsidies. EC officials are furious and threatening to re-retaliate.

What they have in mind is the US ban on \$100 million worth of EC tomatoes, fruit juices, wine coolers and sausage skins which was Washington's original response to the hormone-treated beef ban. They want that figure cut by the value of the beef which the US plans to ship to Europe.

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WILKINS

Insider dealing case collapses after ruling on immunity

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government's crack-down on insider share dealing was in ruins yesterday after a civil servant from the Office of Fair Trading and his brother, a former stockbroker, walked free from Southwark Crown Court.

Charges had been brought against Sara Joy Coren, aged 29, who worked in the mergers department of the OFT, and her brother, Jonathan Greenwood, aged 30, after a Department of Trade inquiry concerning dealing in £10 million worth of shares.

After days of legal debate, highly confidential documents central to the prosecution case were held to be covered by "public interest" immunity. They were ruled inadmissible and unable to go before a jury.

The ruling by Judge Anwyl-Davies, QC, is likely to be challenged before the Court of Appeal. Without the documents, neither case could proceed.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC, for the prosecution, said: "The only course I can adopt is to offer no evidence on Sara Coren and it follows on Jonathan Greenwood as well, as the case against him depends on the fact she gave information to him." Defence lawyers claimed that the failed trial, which cost "thousands of

pounds", had driven a "coach and horses through much of insider dealing legislation".

The Crown Prosecution Service strongly denied any suggestion that the case had been bungled. It is likely that the judge's ruling and his interpretation of the way "public interest" immunity should be applied will be challenged by the Crown Prosecution Service in the Court of Appeal.

Any appeal ruling would be on a point of law and cannot overturn the judge's decision on each of the six charges against each defendant.

The prosecution had alleged that Mrs Coren had passed "sensitive and confidential" information to her brother about City takeover bids. He was able to buy and sell companies' stocks, depending on whether the mergers were to be referred to the Monopolies Commission, a course which has a dramatic effect on prices. Both denied the offences under the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act, 1985, between August 1985 and June 1986.

Public-interest immunity is a common concept in civil proceedings but rare in criminal cases. Information may be granted "immunity" from

being produced in court, if its nature justifies protection from disclosure in the public interest.

During the case Sir Gordon Borrie, QC, Director General of Fair Trading, placed a certificate before the court claiming partial immunity, which would have protected highly confidential material in the documents from disclosure, while still enabling their use as evidence. The judge ruled first, that the immunity covered the whole document or not at all; second, that the prosecution could not adduce secondary evidence that was in those documents; third, that the prosecution could not adduce admissions by one of the defendants that she was aware of the contents of the documents.

Greenwood, a former broker, of Henley's Corner, Hendon, was fined £500 and ordered to pay £250 costs after admitting obtaining a passport by deception and attempting to obtain a second false passport in an attempt to flee to America to start a new life. He was also given an 18-month prison sentence suspended for two years.

Mrs Coren, of Ossulton Way, East Finchley, had been suspended from the Civil Service pending the hearing.

Editors clash over call-girl report

ADRIAN BROOKS



Mr Andrew Neil, left, and Mr Peregrine Worsthorne: Opponents in the Sunday newspaper market and at the High Court.

By Robin Young

The editor of *The Sunday Times* told a court yesterday of his shock at discovering that his former girl friend, Miss Pamela Bordes, was a prostitute.

"I did not believe it," Mr Andrew Neil told the High Court in London. It was only when another newspaper editor showed him evidence that he accepted that she was, he told the first day of a trial in which he is seeking libel damages from the *Sunday Telegraph* and its former editor, Mr Peregrine Worsthorne.

Mr Neil said he was appalled and hurt by allegations in the newspaper, implying that during their four-month relationship he knew that Miss Bordes was a prostitute. A leading article by Mr Worsthorne accused him of bringing *The Sunday Times* into disrepute and "amounted to the most damaging attack on my integrity and professional reputation during six years as editor", he said.

Mr Neil, a bachelor aged 40, and his newspaper are suing over two articles and a cartoon which appeared last March. The defendants deny the defamatory meaning alleged

Tramp nightclub in London, where he was in a party which included Lady Rothermere.

"She came over to our table. She was extremely well-dressed in designer couture and did not look like a page three bimbo. I thought she was very attractive."

She gave him her telephone number and two weeks later he arranged to meet her for lunch. They began to meet three or four times a week and she joined him at business and social functions. "I always felt totally comfortable with her. She was always immaculately presented, commensurate with the company we were keeping and disported herself without any embarrassment to me," he said.

He said that when Miss Patsy Chapman, the editor of the *News of the World*, told him that his former girl friend was to be exposed as a call girl, he had warned her that the newspaper (which, like *The Sunday Times* and *The Times*

is owned by News International) could be running the risk of an expensive libel suit.

When he saw the evidence, he had been obliged to admit the newspaper was justified in running the story and had since accepted that Miss Bordes had been a call girl.

Mr Neil said he was appalled that the articles in *The Sunday Telegraph* made no mention of the fact that he was a bachelor, and did not acknowledge that he could not have known that Mrs Bordes was a call girl.

Mr Neil said that a report in *The Sunday Telegraph* alleging that Mr Rupert Murdoch had told him "this was no way for an editor of a national newspaper to behave" was "totally without foundation".

Mr Neil said that Mr Murdoch had never rebuked him and had been 100 per cent supportive, telling him that he would emerge unscathed because he had done nothing wrong. The case continues today.

Dreams set off by prize

There were three winners of yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum competition.

Mrs Jeanette Pullan, a pensioner from Weymouth, Dorset, said she had "spent the money a hundred times over in daydreams", but suspected her winnings would go on necessities.

"The problem of house maintenance never goes away," she said. "Things always need attention."

Although a newcomer to the competition, Mrs Pullan was already impatient for success. "I shall carry on in the hope of more good luck."

Mrs Pullan shares the prize with Miss Daphne Jopson, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Mr Ian Parkhouse, of Whiteparish, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. Each receives £666.66.

THE TIMES
BBC RADIO 4
PM
ENVIRONMENT
AWARD

Second chance to win £5,000

The £5,000 Environment Award, jointly sponsored by *The Times* and BBC Radio 4's evening news programme PM, will be run again this year.

The award was an enormous success last year, attracting more than 350 entries from all over Britain and prompting nearly 13,000 readers and listeners to join in the voting. It was won by Mr Roger Brunt, a coal miner from Walsley, Nottinghamshire, who created his own wildflower meadow in an area of intensive farming, paid for by extra shifts at the coal face. He was presented with his award by Princess Alexandra; he in turn presented the princess with a cowslip.

Full entry details of *The Times*/PM Environment Award will be published in *The Times* and broadcast on PM on February 12.

Cambridge MPs fight for agency

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

Mr Robert Rhodes James, the Tory MP for Cambridge, and Sir Fred Catherwood, his counterpart in the European Parliament, began a repair operation yesterday on the Government's bid to host the European Environment Agency in the city, which has been publicly rejected by some Cambridge councillors.

The MPs said they would be lobbying intensively to have the decision formally reversed by the next full meeting of the city council, on February 15, before EC foreign ministers meet to decide the agency's location early in March.

The agency is a prize keenly sought by EC states, for it is likely to become an important institution providing environmental data for the whole of the EC. Cambridge, with its university and environmental institutions (including the British Antarctic Survey), has been thought one of the likeliest candidates.

But some members of the Labour-controlled council's environment committee voted against it last week, fearing it would add to the city's congestion.

Sir Fred Catherwood said yesterday: "Cambridge has a very powerful case to host the agency as it has such an enormous background of scientific, and especially data-processing, expertise."

The vote has angered many members of the University, which is attempting to set up its own multi-discipline environment centre with money from private industry.

Baby thief 'talked about emigrating'

By Libby Jukes

Police investigating the disappearance of baby Alexandra Griffiths disclosed yesterday that a woman resembling the suspected kidnapper was seen at St Thomas's Hospital shortly before Christmas. The woman claimed she was adopting a baby before emigrating to Australia with her husband, a milkman.

Det Supt John Bassett, who is leading the inquiry, said that a new witness came forward on Friday to describe a conversation she had on December 21 last year with a woman "remarkably similar" to an artist's impression of "Christine", the bogus health visitor who stole Alexandra from St Thomas's 12 days ago.

The woman struck up a conversation with the witness, a visitor at the hospital, in the women's toilets on the ground floor of the North Wing, near the cafeteria.

"I'm going to adopt a baby," she told the witness, "I'm here

with my husband. He's having checks to make sure everything is all right. We're going to Sydney to live with my sister."

The witness said she believed the woman had a bent upper eye tooth. "If she was trying to hide it, it could give the impression of slurred speech," Det Supt Bassett said. Other witnesses thought "Christine" spoke with a speech impediment. Mr Bassett added: "I would like this woman to come forward urgently. If she is not the suspect, I would like to eliminate another red herring."

Police also issued two new sophisticated "E-fir" impressions of the abductor, compiled from descriptions given by the six original witnesses, including the missing baby's parents. The pictures show a woman aged about 30, with a boyish face, light brown hair, and small, perhaps slanted eyes.



Electronic images of "Christine" produced from descriptions

Cancer research projects 'could be devastated'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Government's health service reforms could have a devastating effect on cancer research in hospitals, causing some projects to be cut back or even abandoned, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) said yesterday.

Patients might be denied new treatments while hospitals involved in expensive research could be priced out of the competitive internal market in the proposed reforms, the fund said.

The ICRF, which carries out about one third of all cancer research in the UK, spending more than £40 million a year, is urging Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, to provide extra money to the hospitals to avoid the problems. Under

the reforms, hospitals will have to compete for patients, but health authorities will be reluctant to send patients to hospitals where cancer research involves higher costs, Sir Walter Bodmer, the fund's director of research, said.

"Charities such as ours will be under pressure to divert money given to us by the public away from research and towards subsidizing patient care and hospital services."

"This will limit our capacity to fulfil our research objectives. It is extraordinary that the Government is not facing up to this problem and putting its money where its mouth is."

Sir Walter added: "We first put forward our own proposals nine months ago and it looks like the Government is

dragging its feet. In the context of the health service reforms, medical research seems low on its list of priorities."

Professor James Malpas, director of the ICRF medical oncology unit at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, a leading cancer treatment

Major hospitals could be forced to opt out of research

centre, said: "We could see major hospitals being forced to opt out of research."

"The inevitable extra costs which have to be borne by hospitals involved in research will price us out of a competitive internal market. We shall simply not be sent enough

patients to carry on proper studies of new therapies."

The result would be that some patients would not get new and less toxic forms of drug treatment to combat their tumours. "It has taken us 20 years to get to where we are now with some therapies. If we don't have the patients to test improvements, we will be seeing the same sorts of cancer problems coming back to us 20 years hence," he said.

The Department of Health's proposal is to increase special payments to teaching hospitals by 2 per cent to cover extra costs of training medical students and research. However, the ICRF argues that this is based on undergraduate numbers only, not research activity, and takes no account

of research in hospitals offering postgraduate teaching or no teaching at all.

● Rapid advances in understanding why some cancers resist drug treatment will enable thousands more patients to lead normal lives with their disease under control. ICRF scientists said yesterday.

They said that ways of overcoming drug resistance were being found and tested in patients suffering from breast and lung cancer.

Drug resistance accounts for more than 90,000 of the 160,000 deaths from cancer in the UK each year. ● Women under 35 using the Pill for four years or more increased the risk of breast cancer by up to 70 per cent, experts said yesterday.

Future tribal queen 'had impeccable character'

By Ruth Gledhill

A woman who died when a simple nose operation went wrong had the right bloodline and the "impeccable character" necessary to succeed as queen of her tribe in Ghana, a court was told yesterday.

Mrs Letitia Yaa Akoma Odoro had good character, knowledge of the royal palace and "the ability to dance in public", the High Court in London was told yesterday.

The princess worked as a lavatory attendant and chambermaid at two London hotels earning about £140 a week when she died. She was the most likely person to succeed to the throne, called the Stool,

of the matrilineal Akan tribe on the death of the present queen — there called queen mother — Mrs Abena Gyamfi, aged about 71. However, Mrs Odoro died aged 32, two days after an operation to wash out her sinuses at Whips Cross Hospital, east London, in July 1983.

Her brother, Mr Steven Asante, and Mr Michael Kean, a solicitor, the administrators of her estate, are claiming £460,000 damages against Waltham Forest Health Authority on behalf of Mrs Odoro's daughter, Jennifer, aged 12. The authority admitted liability last month.

Mr Lawrence Edward Kissi Ampadu, a high-ranking tribesman, gave evidence to prove Mrs Odoro's right to succession. Mr Ampadu, wearing a leopard spotted adinkra, the traditional tribal dress, said Mrs Odoro "had no defect".

Mr Ampadu, half-brother to the present paramount chief Nana Boateng II, who is the tribal king chosen by the queen mother, said Mrs Odoro would have been fetched by tribal delegates on the queen mother's death. "She knew that in the near future of her life she would be called upon to be queen

mother." She would be taken to the royal palace in Abene in eastern Ghana — a single storey brick building with 15 rooms, a corrugated iron roof, and no mains electricity or running water.

Mr Ampadu said he had warned her to be careful while living in this country.

"I said do not go out at night or you will be stabbed, do not go out on your own. Do not get a defect on you. If you are supposed to be a queen mother and have a punched eye they do not take you."

He said Mrs Odoro's divorce would not have been held against her and it did not

matter how long she had been away from home.

Mrs Odoro's daughter, Jennifer, lost all prospects of becoming queen mother and of the wealthy future it entailed when her mother died. She also lost her status and her marriage prospects, the court was told. Because she would never live in the royal palace she would not learn tribal dances — crucial to becoming queen mother.

Mrs Odoro had been planning to return to Ghana to set up herself up in business teaching girls to sew when she died.

The case continues today.



Jennifer Odoro and her brother Mr Steven Asante.

Appeal on funding of research

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

The Government's record on research funding was last night described as destructive and blinkered, highlighting the "ease with which good science can be destroyed by bad politics".

Dr Denis Noble, professor of physiology at Oxford University, called on industry and science to unite to put pressure on the Government.

It should be aimed at securing research funding comparable to Japan's and West Germany's to stave off a "crisis of profound significance" threatening Britain's Nobel prize-winning pedigree.

In a speech to the Company of Instrument Makers, he said recent appeals by distinguished scientists to the Prime Minister had been "generously acknowledged" by Mrs Thatcher in Parliamentary committee and Royal Society speeches.

Nevertheless, her defence of creative research was not being translated into government policy, he said.

Dr Noble, founder of the pressure group Save British Science, said one of the first effects of recent political developments in Britain was pressure on the scientific community to become immediately practicable.

High flyers with itchy wings seek better job prospects in the 90s

By David Cross

Mr Antony Poppleton and Mrs Caroline O'Neill are reasonably happy with their jobs, but neither feels fully equipped or trained to meet the challenges of the decade.

Like nearly 90 per cent of all employees, neither is likely to be party to any workers' revolt in the 1990s, "whether you regard this as a general feeling of well-being, or that workers have accepted the inevitable trade-off to earn their daily crust". Mr Peter Ayton, a senior market analyst with Mintel, the economic research organization, said yesterday.

Mr Ayton was unveiling the results of a survey into the aspira-

tions of the country's workforce as it approaches the single European market after 1992 and can look forward to improved rights under the EC's Social Charter. The poll interviewed 2,000 workers last autumn.

Mr Poppleton, aged 24, from Battersea in south London, who is two years into his first job as a group product manager in the City, intends to stay only another year or so. "Quite honestly I am using it as a stepping stone to something better in the advertising or marketing sector."

"But I fully agree with the report's finding that I need more training and better tools for the work I shall be doing in the next

few years. In my case that means more money for more staff and better computer equipment."

Like other graduates in the survey, Mr Poppleton put better career prospects at the top of his list of requirements for the 1990s. He describes himself as a high flyer and says: "I never want to be in a job where I can't progress. The whole drive of work is to get better, otherwise there is not much point in working at all."

But unlike most other graduates, who rated holidays as relatively unimportant, he would like five weeks instead of the four he gets. "I like to work and play hard and extra time off would be valuable to me," he said. A personal, friendly

working environment was not particularly significant, "I like to get on and do my job, so the atmosphere would not be a crucial element in choosing a job."

Mrs O'Neill, aged 31, a marketing manager from Twickenham, south-west London, joined most managers in the survey in rating profit sharing as an important incentive for employees in the 1990s. "Everybody's efforts in a company should be rewarded equally and this is one of the best ways of achieving that," she said.

Regular performance reviews were also important so that employees knew what was expected of them and could operate more effectively. Holidays were reason-

ably important, "although I would expect to have to work harder if I were given an extra week off."

She was, however, surprised that a personal, friendly environment was low among the list of requirements for most managers. "I think good, friendly relations are important for professional performance and personal satisfaction," she said.

The survey, which also looked at "low flyers" and "part-timers" found that praise was particularly important to 20 to 24 year-olds, the better educated and public sector employees. Many respondents felt that managers should be given more instruction in how to motivate their staff. Employees attached

much greater importance to non-salaried benefits, such as profit-sharing schemes and pension plans, than to regular salary and merit increases.

Nearly a third of those questioned said they had advanced as far as they wanted to in their jobs and only 13 per cent wanted an immediate advancement. Almost a third intended to leave their jobs within three years.

Nearly 80 per cent of the unemployed said that they would consider going back to work or start a job, including 63 per cent of pensioners.

The Employee Report 1990 (Mintel Publications, 18-19 Long Lane, London EC1A 9HE; £750).

PAN AM 1990

PROGRESS REPORT

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2. Rebuild employee commitment so that once again Pan Am people feel and act like the special people they are.

3. Provide financial resources by selling assets not fundamental to the operation of a strong airline.

To date, over \$220,000,000 has been committed to this programme, and the results are more than encouraging. They are measurable.

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We are most definitely beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel.

And we cordially invite you to discover, or rediscover, the Pan Am that is Pan Am again.



Thomas G. Plaskett
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Pan American World Airways, Inc.

PAN AM

هكذا من الأصل

Judges' training chief calls for sentencing forum

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A formal judges' forum should be set up to discuss sentencing policy, according to the man who oversees judges' training.

Lord Justice Glidewell, who chairs the Judicial Studies Board, was against a sentencing council of judges and laymen, but he believed there was a role for formalizing the discussion of sentencing among the judges themselves.

He said there was a need for a group of senior judges — possibly based on the Judges' Council — to "seek to ensure our decisions are consistent."

"I would like to see an expansion of discussion among the judiciary, some more formalized way of getting people to discuss the problems," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

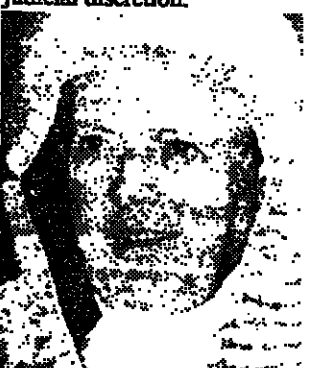
Lord Justice Glidewell's comments come in the wake of a report from the National Association of Probation Officers on Monday which highlighted sentencing disparities between crown courts.

Describing crown court sentencing as a lottery, it showed that the rate courts imposed custodial sentences for the most serious offences varied from 38 per cent at

Mold Crown Court, Chwyd, to 69 per cent at Wood Green, north London.

The Home Office is watching keenly the debate on sentencing and the gathering support for a sentencing council, an idea strongly opposed by the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane.

A central plank of the Home Office White Paper, due out at next week, is to cut the use of custody — and its success depends on the judges' co-operation. But senior officials are wary of interfering with judicial discretion.



Lord Justice Glidewell: "A need for consistency."

Lord Lane is robust in protecting the independence of the judiciary, and although he has attended meetings of judges, chief constables, prosecutors and probation officers on the Government's criminal justice policy, he refuses to participate in sentencing debate.

At present, sentencing policy is dictated entirely by the Lord Chief Justice through guideline judgements in the Court of Appeal, which are disseminated by the Judicial Studies Board in pamphlets and at judges' seminars.

But there is support from some judges for a forum, such as that suggested by Lord Justice Glidewell, where sentencing policy could be discussed outside the courts.

A sentencing commission of judges and laymen was urged by Justice, the all-party reform group, in a recent report; and last March the right-wing Centre for Policy Studies published a paper by Professor Andrew Ashworth, of King's College, London, setting out how such a body could work.

Such a council was also a feature of reforms proposed by the Labour Party last week.

Dancer faces up to back surgery

TED BATH



Mirror image of Lisa Gorgia, aged 15, from Ilford, Essex, who was nearly crippled by curvature of the spine, rehearsing for a return to the stage. Lisa, who has danced since the age of three, had an operation to straighten her spine

last August (Ruth Gledhill writes). She was given a back brace moulded from her shoulders to her hips, which, she hopes, will be removed by doctors today. In spite of the six-hour surgical operation, she has remained a full-time student at the

Barbican stage school, London. Before her illness she performed for Young Stars of Tomorrow, whose latest production in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child opens at the Mermade Theatre next month.

Battle is looming on Heathrow proposals

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

An environmental dispute is looming over proposals to increase the number of flights from Heathrow by using both runways for simultaneous take-offs and landings.

The airlines, led by British Midland, have put forward a five-point plan to expand Heathrow without which, they claim, competition could be strangled. Congestion could become intolerable, and Britain could lose billions of pounds worth of business.

The plan would bring day-long noise to thousands of people living under the flight path. Local protest groups immediately objected and began lobbying MPs to ensure that the scheme was quashed.

Mr Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, said that the proposals would be safe, practical, would not require legislation and could be implemented within two years at a cost of no more than £50 million — "half the cost of a jumbo jet".

The main proposal is to use both runways simultaneously which, it is claimed, would create an extra 50,000 aircraft movements a year, and to shorten the distance between landing aircraft by half a mile. There is ample extra landing capacity at Stansted, Essex.

Traffic congestion

Parkinson plans curbs on lorries

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

Proposals designed to reduce the environmental impact of juggernauts and other lorries in city centres and residential areas, were yesterday unveiled by Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport.

The proposals follow completion of a five-year study, commissioned by the Department of Transport, the Civic Trust, and the County Surveyors' Society, into lorry nuisance, and the low-cost traffic management schemes needed to minimize the disruption caused by them.

The study examined the entire spectrum of problems associated with the proliferation of lorries, including noise, vibration, pollution, accidents, damage to roads, bridges and buildings, obstruction, intrusion and roadside parking.

It proposes a variety of measures to reduce the side-effects of increased lorry use, such as improved signposting, lorry only lanes, lorry priority routes, traffic calming techniques to protect residential areas, and improved parking facilities.

Mr Parkinson said lorries "offer a very efficient and extremely versatile means of transporting freight, and particularly of distributing goods to wholesalers, retailers, and consumers."

The new guidelines "reduce the ill-effect of lorries, without diminishing their great economic benefit", he added.

Mr Garry Turvey, the director-general of the Freight Transport Association, which represents the British freight industry, described the report yesterday as "a refreshing, common sense approach to resolving problems in local communities through co-operation rather than conflict".

The lorry report is available free in two parts. *Lorries in the Community* provides general information for local councillors, residents groups, and freight operators; and a *Manual of Guidance on Lorries and Traffic Management*, provides technical information for engineers and planners.

When Lord Tordoff gets to his feet in the House of Lords today to open a debate on London's traffic congestion he will be able to speak from direct personal experience (Sheila Gunn writes).

It is one of the fallacies of public life that peers always

whizz around in chauffeur-driven limousines.

Passengers travelling on London Underground's district and circle lines are as likely to spot one of their Lordships alighting at Westminster as an MP.

Lord Tordoff, the Liberal Democrats' Chief Whip and their transport spokesman in the upper House, uses a combination of London Underground, buses, taxis, his own feet and, occasionally, his car.

For instance, he has discovered that the No 24 bus can no longer be relied on to turn up with any regularity for the trip along the Embankment from his flat in Dolphin Square to the House of Lords.

So, instead, he walks or takes London Underground from Pimlico to Westminster, which involves changing at Victoria.

He will reveal in today's debate on the Government's discussion document *Traffic in London* that he has witnessed a gradual deterioration in public transport, matched by the inevitable rise in congestion as people opt for driving into central London.

"The traffic in London is in chaos as everybody knows from personal experience. It is becoming an extremely serious problem."

"These problems will not be solved until there is greater investment from Government sources and an overall traffic-transport authority for greater London with can put all the bits together and produce a genuine comprehensive, thought-out programme," he said yesterday.

In his debate, the life peer will call for "park and ride" schemes to encourage drivers to leave their cars outside the capital and switch to public transport.

He argues that British Rail's plans for such schemes had to be aborted because of the Government's insistence that market forces must determine investment plans.

The Liberal Democrats also want "a fairly expensive licence" to be paid by those driving into central London.

"Then there must be a proper bus service. It is because bus services are under-funded and unreliable that the traffic is so awful. If we are not careful, conditions will get like Cairo or Bangkok," he said.

Post Office switches on hi-tech counter services

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

The Post Office yesterday launched the first stage of what is set to become one of Europe's biggest retail automation schemes with the possibility that pension and child benefit books may be replaced by plastic cards.

Counters at 90 post offices in the Thames Valley area put away much of their daily pile of paper work and switched on computers that will streamline and expand customer services.

The £17 million project is to be widened into a swathe of modernization in 250 branches stretching from Banbury to Guildford by April.

If the Government gives approval, more than £100 million has been earmarked to

take the scheme nationwide in 3,000 post offices.

Customers will enjoy faster renewal and automatic printing of car tax discs and computerized transactions of Girobank and National Savings accounts. Within two years, the system will provide automatic information on postal services, computerized payment of household bills and automatic cash withdrawal services on credit cards.

Mr John Roberts, managing director of Post Office Computers Ltd, explained that technology was available and said: "Fast, efficient computer systems will help us break through the paper chains which bound us to the past."

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Union help for overworked teachers to beat classroom stress

By David Tyler
Education Editor

Teachers and schools must do more to help themselves beat classroom stress, Britain's largest teachers' union said yesterday.

The National Union of Teachers said that it would set up a regional network of counsellors to help teachers already suffering stress. Schools should provide better health and rest facilities, and teachers should be allowed more time to prepare their lessons.

Time should also be given for overstretched staff to seek advice

from their colleagues. At present, too few teachers discuss their problems, according to a survey commissioned by the union from Nottingham University's centre of organizational health.

The union says that stress can be reduced if teachers are consistent and open with their pupils, keep them busy and reward them for good behaviour. It also recommends them to be well-organized, to plan in advance, to establish a teaching routine and to think about problems objectively.

Teachers are also advised to tell colleagues, pupils and parents

exactly how they feel and where they stand, to measure their performance against their own aims, to slow down, avoid coping by simply working harder and longer, to forget work when finished for the day, and to spend more time out of school with people who are not teachers.

The union says they should talk problems over with colleagues, seeking reassurance that they have similar problems, or seek advice from more experienced teachers.

The researchers polled 2,000 teachers in 31 schools, but had only a 27 per cent response.

Nearly three-quarters of those replying said they would consider leaving their schools if it were easy to move on. Twenty-seven per cent said they would like to switch into independent schools, and 25 per cent said they would like to leave teaching altogether.

The report said the main causes of stress were classroom disruption and violence, a general lack of respect towards teachers, too much administrative paperwork (made worse by recent reforms), and low morale caused by poor pay.

It added that the way a school

was run was directly linked with the number of absences among staff, for those lead to greater stress and more teachers seeking early retirement. About 10,000 teachers retired early last year.

Mr Doug McAvoey, general secretary of the NUT, which has 170,000 members, said: "School management is completely out of date. Schools are organized to run the education system of 1945 — not 1990."

The researchers said that teachers complained that schools were too competitive, that staff lacked team spirit and shared standards,

and that they received little help with their problems. The report added: "Teachers also reported a lack of appreciation from others. Staff appeared to have little respect for each other's ability."

Miss Sylvia Jewell, who taught English in a Wakefield secondary school for 18 years, said she had left the classroom because of stress. "I left to open a shop before I went under, and I know what a pressurized world the teachers live in. It is not possible to do it all and to remain a sensible and human person, to be a good teacher."

The union's action plan against

stress includes a helpline to counsel teachers and roadshow workshops for staff suffering stress.

Local authorities will be expected to train teachers to manage their time properly, and to provide sufficient staff to reduce class sizes. They will also be asked to provide extra planning time, a staff health service, counselling, exercise and leisure courses, and better working conditions generally.

Teachers and Schools: A Study of Organisational Health and Stress (free from NUT, Hamilton House, Mableton Place, London, WC1).

Moynihan plots new course in effort to boost school sports

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Cricket and football club coaches are to be drafted into schools to halt the decline in team games, under proposals being drawn up by the Government.

They will be encouraged to take over responsibility for senior sides from teachers no longer willing to sacrifice their leisure time to train pupils and supervise matches.

Talented youngsters identified by the revised approach may also be able to benefit from new sports scholarships entitling them to advanced coaching at club or county level.

Ministers hope they will be able to interest private firms in sponsoring individuals, in much the same way as US companies offer sports scholarships to college students.

The proposals are in response to mounting concern about team games in state schools, where sports have been damaged by the erosion of the voluntary spirit among teachers and the sale of council playing fields.

Some left-wing Labour education authorities have been hostile towards competitive games, but Labour leaders recently repudiated such attitudes and published a survey showing that nine out of 10 local authorities are worried about the standards of physical education in their schools.

Ministers are also considering encouraging specialist sports schools similar to the

Football Association's National School at Lilleshall in Shropshire. Lilleshall's pupils are boarders, but the new schools would probably cater for day pupils. Mr Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, has accepted that there is no prospect of going back to the era before the classroom strikes of the mid-1980s, when sizeable numbers of staff were still prepared to give up their afternoons and weekends.

With teachers now working on carefully defined contracts, Mr Moynihan has decided to look elsewhere for the skilled manpower needed to revitalise school sport.

His proposals are to be published in the late summer in a consultation paper from the Department of the Environment. It is understood that he wants to see much closer collaboration between schools, local clubs and the



Mr Moynihan, Minister for Sport, is expected to announce plans for a new governing bodies of major team games.

governing bodies of major team games.

Under the scheme now being devised, club coaches would be paid at least their expenses for coming into schools and giving pupils expert tuition in games such as cricket, soccer, rugby, netball and hockey. The reorganization would also aim to raise standards in individual sports such as tennis and squash.

Teachers would still be expected to give children a basic grounding in popular sports but most of the more advanced coaching would be done by qualified outsiders.

Links between clubs and schools would be strengthened so that fewer talented young people slip through the net without receiving expert help to realize their sporting potential.

The minister has been impressed by a rugby coaching scheme run by London Welsh for boys as young as eight. It has been well received by local secondary schools, which have benefited from an influx of young players with a basic understanding of the game.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, the Minister of State for Education, recently rejected proposals from the School Sport Forum for teachers to be paid expenses for taking sport on Saturdays. She said that the Government wanted to hear from the physical education working party for the national curriculum before making decisions.

Tate rehanging brings truce by revolution

MARK PEPPER



Miss Kate Russell, a conservationist, cleaning frames as the gallery launches itself into a new era by ending demarcation between British and modern art.

A £1 million truce has been called between the "warring factions" within the Tate Gallery, the director, Mr Nicholas Serota, said yesterday (St. Martin's writes). The truce flag is in the form of the rearrangement of the collections of British art, in one camp, and 20th-century art, in the other.

"Great advances in the 20th century have not been given the prominence they might have been, and the great strengths of the 18th and 19th centuries were not evident," Mr Serota said. "Some of the things we would wish to say are better left unsaid: they are more eloquently said by the way we have reorganized the galleries."

He admitted there had been disagreements among the curators at the initial stages of the revolutionary

recasting. The new hang now draws visitors through a sculpture gallery to the back of the building to begin a chronological circuit of the development of British art from 1550, with foreign influences included, and to break the barrier of 1900 which had been maintained. The traditional demarcation between British art and modern art has gone.

Two-thirds of the funding for the first rehanging since the 1960s has come from private sources, with £300,000 from BP in the largest single sponsorship the Tate has ever received.

But many paintings which ought to be on show are not because of the state of the fabric and the lack of air conditioning, Mr Serota said. Several works, including oil painting on wood, temperas by William Blake and an

important early Brancusi wood sculpture, can not be seen because of the atmosphere. In addition, any of the recently restored paintings have had to have glass put in front of them to prevent them deteriorating.

Mr Serota said the Government had been told that £15 million was needed to refurbish the gallery, and another £15 million would be required to install air conditioning.

He also quashed rumours that the trustees of the Tate were considering introducing admission charges. "Admission to the Tate should now and as far as possible in the future be free," he said, adding that the trustees did not believe the large sums needed to run and maintain the building could be got from admission charges, particularly in view of the damaging effect

they would have on takings in the book shop and restaurant.

But even with the rehanging, only 29 per cent of the Tate's holdings of 5,100 were to be seen anywhere, and only 10 per cent in the Tate in London — there are 500 there, 290 in the Tate Gallery in Liverpool and 250 on loan.

The choices for addressing the problem were hanging smaller pictures, leading more, or building more galleries, which the trustees intended to do on vacant land in the grounds of the Millbank building.

Mr Serota announced the acquisition of one of the latest paintings by Lucian Freud, one of the most important living British artists. It is thought that *Standing by the River* has been acquired for a price approaching £1 million.

Campaign on 'girlie' magazines

By Richard Evans
Media Editor

A campaign to confine the sale of "girlie" magazines to licensed shops was launched in the Commons yesterday.

The latest attempt to curb the display and sale of "soft pornography" magazines comes as the Home Office awaits an academic review of the effect such material has on public attitudes and behaviour.

A Bill introduced by Miss Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol, South, defines pornographic material as "film and video and printed matter which, for the purpose of sexual arousal or titillation, depicts women, or parts of women's bodies, as objects, things or commodities, or in sexually humiliating or degrading poses or being subjected to violence."

She said yesterday her main targets were the 73 "top shelf" magazines, such as *Penthouse*, *Fiesta* and *Mayfair*, which were displayed in high-street newsagents and stores.

Miss Primarolo is proposing that the sale of soft pornography magazines should take place only in premises licensed by a local authority.

Although the measure introduced in the Commons yesterday has no chance of becoming law, Miss Primarolo would like to see a private member's Bill introduced next year and reach the statute book.

£4m drive attracts only 112 nurses

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The £4 million nurse recruitment campaign launched by the Government last August attracted only 112 nurses to training, the Department of Health disclosed yesterday.

Mrs Anne Poole, the department's chief nursing officer, said the campaign which ran for three months and was aimed at 18 to 35 year olds, was "highly successful", producing 87,000 responses. However, only 5,428 of respondents paid the £6 for an application form and career information pack and only 112 of these entered training.

The Royal College of Nursing described the figure as "pathetic" and said that many of the recruits may have entered nursing anyway, without spending £4 million.

As more than a third of nurses entering training dropped out before qualifying, at least 38 of the 112 were unlikely to stay the course, an RCN spokesman said.

The figures were revealed as Mrs Poole launched a £200,000 phase of the campaign aimed at attracting 13 and 14 year olds. Strip cartoons will depict nursing as a glamorous profession with ample free time, lots of money and a great social life.

Mrs Patricia Collinson, from the nursing division of the Department of Health, said that market research showed that most young people had an image of nursing as "dreary, dull, terrible hours and no social life". The

aim of the campaign was to try to change that image, she said. Mrs Poole said it was targeted at youngsters who would be starting nursing in 1994 at the peak of the demographic trough.

The Royal College of Nursing described the new campaign as a "total waste of money", which enforced the traditional image of nurses as "young, white and female, not very bright and ripe for sexual titillation".

Mr Brian Dolan said it was completely divorced from reality. Part of the reason 30 per cent of recruits left nursing before they qualified, and 30,000 nurses left every year, was because of the "reality" of the job, he said. "We must improve the pay and working conditions of nurses if we are to attract and keep them."

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She said £7.5 million would be shared among regional health authorities to help five target areas including improving privacy on wards, setting up bereavement counselling rooms, providing more patient information and individual appointment times.

The first loans under a £50 million central bridging fund scheme to allow community services for the mentally ill to be built before hospital closures will be made from June.

Witness support scheme Helping schoolgirl face court trauma

By David Sapsted

Susie Smith is a bright nine-year-old whose life has been irrevocably scarred by a sexual assault. A man has been arrested but the child's ordeal is not over — in the next few weeks she is to give evidence at Maidstone Crown Court in Kent against her alleged attacker.

She will have to relive her assault in painful detail and, in all probability, be cross-examined about the truth of her evidence during an experience that few adults, let alone a primary school child, could relish. But at least Susie Smith (not, of course, her real name) is better prepared than most.

The youngster and her mother have already stood in the witness box, albeit in an empty court room. The child has been assured that her alleged attacker will be standing a long way from her and she has seen where the judge will sit. She has even sipped Coca-Cola as she played in the TV link room from where, everyone hopes, she will be able to give her evidence.

Susie is among the first beneficiaries of a scheme,

announced by the charity Victim Support on Monday, to help crime victims and witnesses facing the trauma of an appearance in court.

A two-year experiment which, if successful, could be extended to all crown courts, is being established at Newcastle, Preston, Liverpool, Manchester, Wood Green in north London, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, and Maidstone. Full-time co-ordinators and teams of trained volunteers will be based at the courts to help the victims cope with the trauma of a court case.

At both Maidstone and Stockton the scheme has been running for several weeks.

Mrs Maureen Utting, a mother of two and a former police woman, is co-ordinator of the Maidstone scheme. "One of the prime reasons we are here is to give victims a safe haven ... to make sure

they are not intimidated by the place, the procedures, or even such elementary things as having to sit alone outside a courtroom among the family of the man who mugged them," she said.

She has built up a team of more than 30 volunteers. On average, each spends one day a fortnight at the court as chaperone, confidante and coffee-maker to the victims of a wide cross-section of crime.

Sam White (again not his real name) was such a victim. He was assaulted by two men after his car had broken down. Though he had given evidence during criminal proceedings, he was "shaking like a leaf" on the day of the trial.

Mrs Utting said: "We were able to help just by taking him to a private room and sitting with him over a cup of tea."

One problem at Maidstone is that there is no formal referral system of victims and witnesses from the Crown Prosecution Service. Ideally,

as in the case of Susie Smith, Victim Support would like to make early contact with witnesses.

At present volunteers tour the court building offering assistance to those sitting in public areas, or wait for people to turn up at their second-floor office in response to posters in the building advertising the service.

Since December they have seen dozens of victims and witnesses, some of whom have been "quite simply frightened out of their wits" at the prospect of having to give evidence.

Mrs Utting said: "Victims come to court and find themselves in a totally alien and, to many, intimidating environment. Often you can be of help just showing them where the toilets are or explaining the jobs of the figures dressed in black."

"In the end, I think it not only helps the individuals but the process of justice itself: someone who is more relaxed because he or she understands what is happening in court will obviously be a better witness."

More glass found in apple pies

Glass has been found in nine more packs of Mr Kipling apple pies, the company said yesterday (Ray Clancy writes).

The latest finds, mostly in Scotland and the North-east, come after the company recalled 300,000 packs after a customer discovered glass slivers in one of them.

The manufacturing process was checked yesterday at Manor Bakeries, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, a Rank Hovis McDougall subsidiary which produces cakes and pies under the Mr Kipling name. The company said there was no evidence to suggest sabotage.

Customers have been told to return packs with self-dates of January 31, February 1, 2, and 3. The contaminated packs are all special offers of seven pies for the price of six.

Jobs hope

Up to 150 of the 257 workers facing redundancy with the closure of a Van Hensen shirt factory at St Austell, Cornwall, may find jobs with shirt-makers L. S. & J. Sussman, which is considering taking over part of the factory.

Acid crash

The southbound lane of the M6 was closed and trains halted after a tanker carrying nitric acid left the motorway and overturned near the main Glasgow-London railway line at Tebay, Cumbria, yesterday.

Furniture fire

Shaheen Iqbal Farooqi and his brother, Ahmed, of Ali Baba Carpets, Bradford, were each fined £4,000 yesterday for selling foam-filled furniture that failed fire safety tests.

Rail death

A workman was struck and killed by a train yesterday on a level crossing at Nuthorne, near Chichester, West Sussex.

Job experience

Crime prevention officers in Essex are including security recommendations from a reformed burglar in their advice to homeowners on how to make their property safe.

Hunt hints at review of poll tax grants

By David Walker
Public Administration Correspondent

Mr David Hunt, the Minister for Local Government and Inner Cities, dropped a broad hint yesterday that a central element in the poll tax system would be revised later this year.

He promised a critical audience of mainly Conservative district councillors that the Whitehall formula for grants would be "reviewed" in time for the 1991-92 financial year and urged them to tell the Department of the Environment of their anxieties.

Appearing concerned to head off strong opposition from the Tory-controlled Association of District Councils, Mr Hunt emphasized ways that the new system might produce more income for local authorities than they had expected.

He singled out the application of poll tax to second homes, telling councils to

take full advantage of the estimated £85 million that owners of second homes would have to pay. Under the new arrangements owners of second or empty houses and flats will pay a "standard" poll tax which councils set.

However, Mr Hunt said that as far as 1990-91 went the Government had published all the relevant figures and it was now up to councils to make the best of them. "Yours is the responsibility to decide what the level of charge will actually be in each area, and you have the opportunity to show to your charge-payers the benefit of prudent and efficient management."

Mr Graham Stringer, Labour leader of Manchester City Council, said yesterday that the council would be making substantial cuts in its spending in order to get its projected poll tax level down.

The Labour group's target for poll tax in Manchester is between £399 and £449 an adult, compared with Whitehall's

target of £314. If Manchester spent next year at this year's level, the poll tax would be £733 a head.

Mr Stringer said it was ludicrous for Manchester to be accused by government ministers of overspending. At least £100 a head of its poll tax would be accounted for by Manchester's contribution to safety nets for other councils and new government rules on municipal debt.

He added that creative accountancy schemes previously entered in to by the council would make "no significant impact" on the 1990-91 poll tax level.

More than half the adult population of England and Wales think rates were a fairer system than the poll tax, according to a survey by National Opinion Polls.

Fifty-six per cent of the 847 people questioned by telephone preferred the rates. There was a sharp divide between Labour and Conservative voters: 15 per cent of Labour supporters believed it was fair, compared with 49 per cent of Tories.

Minister 'has right to limit poverty payment categories'

Claims that the poor are being deprived of grants from the Social Fund because of unlawful ministerial interference with the discretion of local officials were rejected in the House of Commons today.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, appearing for the Government, defended the right of the social services secretary to specify which kinds of need should be met by payments.

On Monday three applicants who were refused awards launched the first legal challenge to the new fund, introduced in 1988. Backed by the Child Poverty Action Group and Sheffield Law Centre, they claimed that a

rigid framework of directions set up by the secretary of state was preventing local Social Fund officers from properly exercising their discretion and deciding, as the Government had intended, who was entitled to payments.

Yesterday Mr Beloff argued Parliament had never intended to give local officials unfettered discretion to make awards without guidance from the secretary of state.

He said that, for example, it would not be appropriate for an official to make payments to allow a person to follow the fortunes of the England football team in the World Cup. The first of the three cases

concerns Mr Samuel Stitt, an unemployed father of six from Newcastle upon Tyne, who was refused help with the care of two-year-old triplets while he was on a job training scheme.

Mr Derek Roberts, aged 40, an unemployed father of seven, of Wymour, Sheffield, was refused a grant to help with removal expenses to a five-bedroom home. He said his family faced being broken up unless he received help.

Mr Glenn Sherwin, aged 19, of St Aidan's Close, Sheffield, was refused a grant to buy essential furniture for a council flat.

Judgment was reserved.

هكذا من الأصل

Khmer Rouge seeks to win hearts and minds

From James Pringle, Thmar Puok, Cambodia

They came down the street towards the marketplace of this "liberated" town in north-west Cambodia; not obtrusive or arrogant, but with a disquieting aura about them.

People did not shy away but somehow made a space around the four Khmer Rouge guerrillas. As two of them sat down at a table, propped up their AK 47 rifles, and ordered a simple meal, they had plenty of elbow room.

Near by, but out of earshot, a correspondent visiting this tiny enclave of Cambodia controlled by the forces of Prince Sihanouk asked a middle-aged woman if she was afraid of the Khmer Rouge. She said she was not, but she was afraid of the Khmer Rouge. She said she was not, but she was afraid of the Khmer Rouge.

A dozen Khmer Rouge are stationed in Thmar Puok, the "capital" of the area controlled by Sihanouk forces. Their leader, Prak Vanna, aged 41, is a veteran fighter who says he has liaison duties here.

One of his younger soldiers has shoulder-length hair, and another wears a Buddhist amulet, but they all have the steady, 1,000-yard stare peculiar to the Khmer Rouge and a steady discipline that seems alien to Cambodians.

What seems clear is that the Khmer Rouge, despite its brutal excesses from 1975 to late 1978, when up to a million people are said to have died at their hands, through starvation, illness or execution, has mounted what one relief agency official calls a "hearts-and-minds" operation to try to overcome an execrable image and win popular support against what it projects as a Vietnamese puppet regime in Phnom Penh.

Although the idea of a "kindly, more caring" Khmer Rouge sounds ludicrous, non-communist Cambodian of-

ficials say the effort is having some success in building support in poor rural villages, and in recruiting young Cambodians for their fighting force.

Just as Site 8, the Khmer Rouge-run civilian camp along the Thai-Cambodian border, is said by foreign relief officials to be by far the most orderly of the displaced persons camps - "you don't commit a rape or a theft there because you know what will happen to you if you do", one official said - so no one crosses the Khmer Rouge inside Cambodia.

Officials say that, because of a reputation for ruthlessness, the Khmer Rouge no longer needs to coerce people in the civilian camps it controls when it requires porters to carry ammunition across the mine-strewn border.

The same is true inside areas of Cambodia liberated

with US dollars or for gold - and pays well above the market price. In other areas where food is short, the Khmer Rouge is said to give free rice or basic medicines to the peasants.

"Nowadays, they work on the principle that, if you want to get help from the people, you have to show you are doing something for them," adds one Sihanoukist official. "It's having some success."

The Khmer Rouge is funded by China, but also has its own sources of income. On October 22 last year, it captured the gem mining town of Pailin, near the Thai border, and Thai miners pay the guerrillas to dig for rubies and sapphires. Revenues, according to sources here, are high.

In political meetings in captured or infiltrated villages, the Khmer Rouge is trying to distance themselves

Battambang and Siem Reap provinces. Sihanoukist officers predict that the "Pol Pot" forces will launch a big attack on Battambang, Cambodia's second city, in February.

The Sihanoukists here maintain, without much conviction, that they do not really fear the Khmer Rouge - their supposed allies - in the long term.

"Under an international settlement with a United Nations peacekeeping force in place, and an end to outside arms supplies, the Khmer Rouge will join the electoral process," says one Sihanoukist official. "During such a process, it is quite difficult for the Khmer Rouge to point a gun."

That remains to be seen. But an international relief agency official says he believes the Khmer Rouge, though it has changed its strategy, has not altered its political philosophy.

Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, should they ultimately gain a military victory, would be run along the lines of Albania or North Korea, he maintains. "They won't even need to kill so many people" he says. "They have already got rid of so many of those who opposed them in the past. Besides people know better than to step out of line."

On the other hand, a Western diplomat who watches Cambodia maintains that "during the last 10 years, they have learned to work with the United Nations, with the international relief agencies, and with the Thais. They recognize they made mistakes in the past, and they are more sophisticated now."

Thmar Puok seems quite a happy little enclave. If a future Cambodia were like this, the outlook would be upbeat. Most Cambodians seem to prefer the non-communist resistance, whatever its failings, to either of the opposing communist regimes.



Khmer Rouge guerrillas holding defensive positions at Phnom Malai, on the Cambodian border with Thailand, a former stronghold retaken from government forces in November.

● They won't even need to kill so many people. They have already got rid of so many of those who opposed them in the past ●

by the "resistance". "When the Khmer Rouge come into a village and ask for volunteer fighters, you step forward," said one relief agency official who monitors events inside Cambodia. "It's hard to refuse the Khmer Rouge if you are a Cambodian."

Diplomats and relief workers say the Khmer Rouge probably has genuine support among the poorest peasants who benefited from its rule before. "There is more concern about the Khmer Rouge in the international community than there is in some Cambodian villages," said one foreign relief worker based at the Thai-Cambodian border.

In its hearts-and-minds campaign, the Khmer Rouge buys rice from the peasants

from their past, admitting "mistakes". "In 1982, we changed," one Khmer Rouge officer recently told a correspondent. "Our struggle became one of national liberation against the Vietnamese. Our policy is now one of justice. We tell people that theft is wrong, murder is wrong."

Militarily the Khmer Rouge may hold up to 6,250 square miles - less than one-tenth of the land area - of sparsely populated territory in the north and west of Cambodia. There may be an estimated 100,000 people under their control.

Since the Vietnamese withdrawal in September, the Khmer Rouge has captured three district capitals in

Uneasy calm in Battambang as guerrillas warn of fresh onslaught

Battambang (Reuters) - Cambodia's second-largest city, Battambang, was peaceful yesterday with no evidence of the rocket attacks on its airport or suburbs, which Khmer Rouge guerrillas claim they launched on January 5.

Officials said the attack had claimed only one victim - an invalid, aged 84. Mr My Chhat, a member of the city administration, said: "They did not attack military,

but only civilian targets." The Khmer Rouge claimed in radio broadcasts to have set parts of the city alight in an overnight hit-and-run operation, during which they occupied key installations.

The north-western city, which has a population of 45,000, appeared normal as the first batch of Western journalists to visit it since the attack was brought in by lorry through its decaying and sleepy

streets. East European diplomats in Phnom Penh said that the Government had heavily reinforced Battambang with troops and modern artillery, and built a three-ring cordon militaire.

"I can assure you Battambang will not fall," one diplomat said. However, security appeared light. Only a handful of soldiers guarded the airport as the occasional military lorry rumbled

through the city. The diplomats said they had withdrawn all their technical staff from the city since January 5 and added that one flight to the city had been cancelled because the airport was not secure.

Mr Chat, in a room at a jute factory beneath a portrait of Mr Heng Samrin, the leader of the People's Revolutionary Party, said rail links with Phnom Penh were irregular and that some road

bridges had been blown up. But for market stall holders in Battambang, life appeared normal. There was no apparent shortage of goods and prices were similar to elsewhere.

Local officials said the Khmer Rouge had attacked Moung Russei, 25 miles to the south-east, on Monday, and that one soldier said six guerrillas had been killed. "But we are safe here in Battambang," said one militiaman.

Noriega 'cache of cocaine' was food

From Susan Elliott, Washington

The Bush Administration's case against General Manuel Noriega suffered a blow this week when the US military said that a cache of "cocaine" found in a house allegedly used by the overthrown Panamanian dictator for voodoo rituals turned out to be food.

The admission by a US officer was the latest clarification about details of the American invasion of Panama last month to suggest that the United States may have trouble proving some charges against General Noriega. It could also further embarrass the Administration as the prosecution case - dubbed here the "trial of the century" - seems in disarray.

On the third day of the invasion, as General Noriega remained at large, the US Army in Panama City proudly announced that troops who stormed one of his houses had found in a freezer 50lb of cocaine wrapped in banana leaves. This was later revised to 50 kilos (110lb).

A former senior assistant to the US Attorney in Miami described the find immediately afterwards as "incredibly damaging evidence that we didn't have before" of General Noriega's heavy involvement in illegal narcotics.

On Monday, however, a US officer said the cache contained *amais*, a Central American specialty consisting of leaves stuffed with a soft corn mixture. "It was just a mistake in the confusion of the moment," he said. American officials added that none of the 990lb of cocaine and other drugs found in Panama since the invasion could be linked directly to the general.

Officials in the new US-backed Panamanian Government say they have encountered similar problems with assets the Bush Administration has cited as part of General Noriega's personal wealth allegedly accumulated through illegal drug transactions and racketeering.

Many of the assets are held in the name of the Panamanian military, his former close associates or - as in the matter of a \$27 million (£16.5 million) castle in southern France - his mistress.

WORLD ROUNDUP

US seeks respite for boat people

Geneva - An 11-nation working group yesterday battled to find a compromise on the enforced repatriation of Vietnamese boat people, before reporting today to the 29-nation steering committee of the Intergovernmental Conference on Indochinese Refugees (Alan McGregor writes).

United Nations refugee officials describe this as a "last chance" for agreement on the repatriation issue. The United States proposed that a 12-month moratorium be observed on enforced repatriation, beginning this month. Mr Robert Fumeth of the US, said this would give boat people time to opt for voluntary repatriation under the UN programme. However, Mr Geoffrey Barnes, Hong Kong's Secretary for Security, said that the American plan was unsuitable as it would not deter more boat people from coming to the colony.

Barons free hostage

Bogotá - Colombian cocaine racketeers have released the most prominent of their recent kidnap victims in an apparent gesture of goodwill to open dialogue with President Barco's Government to end the drug war they admit they have lost (Geoffrey Matthews writes). Señor Alvaro Montoya, an insurance company executive, and the son of the President's powerful aide, Dr Germán Montoya, was freed here on Monday. He had been kidnapped on December 19, four days after Gonzalo Rodríguez Gacha, a top member of the Medellín drug cartel, was killed in a shoot-out with the security forces. Responsibility for the abduction was claimed by "Los Extraditables", as the leading drug barons wanted in the US call themselves.

Refugees evacuated

Asawa, Bougainville Island - A mass evacuation of refugees from the strife-torn Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville has been completed amid emotional scenes on the waterfront (Robert Cockburn writes). Some 300 men, women and children filled The Kris, a ferry that normally brings in visitors, as it set sail for the safety of the neighbouring island of New Britain. Fires were still burning in the town centre after attacks by secessionist rebels of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army. Three more islanders were killed yesterday by soldiers of the Papua New Guinea Defence Forces who claimed they had captured a rebel stronghold. As fighting intensifies, more people are expected to leave when the ferry returns on Friday.

Sale of bombs denied

Washington (Reuters) - Israel has assured the United States that it is not selling cluster bombs to Ethiopia, according to the State Department. The New York Times reported on Sunday that US Administration officials suspected Israel of sending cluster bombs to Ethiopia and had unconfirmed reports that the Government had used them against rebels. Mrs Margaret Tutwiler, for the State Department, did not confirm the allegation. "The truth is that we have no clear, physical evidence that Israel has provided such weapons to the Government of Ethiopia ... and we have been told Israel was not providing cluster bombs to Ethiopia and would not do so," she said.

'Verses' for Tokyo

Tokyo (AP) - One year after Salman Rushdie, the author of *The Satanic Verses*, received a death threat from Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian spiritual leader, the book will be published in Japanese, the publisher said yesterday. Signor Gianni Palma, an Italian who is publishing it in Japanese, said it was purely coincidental that the publication date should fall on the anniversary of the late Ayatollah issuing a religious edict calling on Muslims to kill Rushdie. The coincidence "makes me very, very worried", he said, but he had wanted to bring out the translation as soon as possible.

Fierce Congress debate looms on defence dollars

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

Congress began its first session of the new decade yesterday with one of the central tenets of political debate in the 1980s gone. The Cold War is over. The need for about 40 per cent of all tax dollars to be spent on defence is ending too.

Every year, there is a fierce debate on defence spending, but this year's will dominate the coming session.

The Pentagon will request \$292 billion (£177 billion) for 1991, a cut of only 2 per cent in real terms on 1990. The Administration argues that sweeping reductions in military muscle are premature and

should await a longer-term restructuring tailored to changed world circumstances.

This line will be supported by Mr Sam Nunn, the influential Democrat chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, but many members of the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives will have none of it.

They want billions diverted from military spending to social programmes, and believe the public mood is with them. They will be gunning for big-ticket programmes such as the B2 Stealth bomber, the Strategic Defence Initiative and the MX missile, and will demand that US troop levels in Europe

be slashed. Mr Les Aspin, Democrat chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said last week that new high-technology weapons should now be developed but not bought.

Liberal Democrats, led by Mr Barney Frank of Massachusetts, aim to cut \$7 billion from the 1991 budget. "It's going to be hard to argue that we're soft on communism," he says. "What does that mean? That we are insufficiently leery about Albania?"

The White House contends that if and when there are defence savings, they should be used to solve America's huge budget deficit. Even on figures

which critics say are fiddled, it stands at \$100 billion this year, and must by law be reduced to \$64 billion in 1991.

President Bush, pre-empting his January 31 state-of-the-union speech, has emphasized his priorities for the coming session. He wants Congress to enact his long-cherished capital-gains-tax cuts and finally to act on the clean-air and anti-crime legislation he sent it last year. The latter includes the death penalty for drug barons.

Congress has ideas of its own. The first big House vote this month will override the President's veto of a Bill allowing Chinese students to re-

main in the US after their visas expire. Congress may vote for tougher sanctions against China.

Mr Daniel Moynihan, an astute Democrat congressman, has, meanwhile, horrified Republicans by purloining their anti-tax philosophy. He has proposed a \$55 billion cut in social security taxes, which, for three out of four Americans, are now higher than income taxes. These are artificially high, ostensibly to build a reserve to cope with the boom in pensioners after the year 2010, but in fact to mask a budget deficit that would otherwise be about \$165 billion. Mr Moynihan's

proposal aims to expose that deficit, forcing Mr Bush either to cut benefits or raise taxes.

It puts Republican congressmen on the spot. In a mid-term election year, they do not want to vote down a "tax cut" which benefits everyone, still less if Mr Bush is championing a cut in capital-gains tax cut which is perceived to benefit the rich.

The shadow of the budget deficit will also fall on congressional attempts to increase US aid to emerging East European democracies and to Panama. Some Democrats say peace would be better preserved by aid spending money.

Public figures, page 14

Jury convicts hacker whose 'worm' turned nasty

From James Bone, New York

Robert Morris, a postgraduate student, aged 24, who jammed a nationwide system of thousands of computers with a devastating "worm" program, has become the first person convicted under a recent American law against computer hacking.

Morris, whose father is a top government expert on computer security, sat stony-faced as the jury read its verdict after 5½ hours of deliberations at the end of a two-week trial.

He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 (£152,500) fine under

the 1986 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, but the judge set no date for his sentencing. Computer experts said yesterday that an appropriate sentence would be community service involving computers rather than a prison term.

Legal experts and law enforcement officials have been monitoring the case to see if the legislation, written before disruptive computer programs, called viruses and worms, became widespread, would prove effective. Three Bills now before Congress would make writing such programs illegal, but Monday night's guilty

verdict may make the introduction of new legislation unnecessary.

Brought up with computers, Morris testified at his trial that he had made a programming error which caused a computer worm - which differs from a virus in that it does not delete files - to go berserk. On November 2, 1988, the worm corrupted some 6,000 computers on the Internet network.

Computer experts who analysed the program and comments found in Morris's files said they believed he intended the worm harmlessly to inhabit different computers, possibly flashing a message to alert users to

security "holes", but a small error made it reproduce uncontrollably, clogging machines it entered.

"It was a mistake and I'm sorry," were Morris's last words as he stepped off the witness stand.

The prosecution contended, however, that the "worm" was not a juvenile prank nor a legitimate research project gone awry, and the jury agreed.

Morris was suspended from Cornell University after the worm incident but has since attended Harvard and worked for makers of advanced computer systems.

Briton encourages Japanese yen for Outward Bound

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Most Westerners may think the Japanese workforce is already so motivated that only electric shock treatment could give it extra zip.

But Mr Anthony Willoughby, an eccentric Englishman, thinks otherwise.

An adventurer who has trekked across jungles, run a leather-goods business and taken the world's skipping champion on promotional tours of Switzerland, Mr Willoughby, aged 39, is trying to persuade Japanese bosses that a British Outward Bound-style course will make their employees more enthusiastic.

He is having some success already. Mr Willoughby's fledgling company is offering courses in the woods outside Tokyo. It is taking 80 bookings a month from companies like Rover Japan, ICI, Cathay Pacific, Reuters and Chemical Bank. Two Japanese firms recently signed up.

Mr Willoughby, who has



Englishman abroad: Mr Anthony Willoughby, in bowler hat and suit, and friend studying *The Times* on the Silk Route. camp fire will do them more good than traditional Japanese courses. Known as "hell training", Japanese courses test participants' tolerance by

making them take icy showers at 4am and sing "My Way" to perplexed shoppers.

His company is named after his philosophy - "I Will Not Complain" - a motto born after someone on one of his exotic trips through Papua New Guinea whined so much that he vowed to make all future travellers sign a document promising not to moan *en route*.

Among the pledges are: "I will not complain if I get eaten or trodden on by animals" and "If I have forgotten something I will not endlessly ask other people if they have got one."

Mr Willoughby says: "Later I showed these regulations to a Japanese businessman and he said, 'Ah, that is the philosophy of life, the path to power'. So, although it started out as a bit of fun, I'm now going to companies and offering them the opportunity to develop this attitude within their firms."

"Management training programmes using role play and

case study are as relevant for training people to be more effective managers as using dotted lines on postcards to teach potential mountaineers about climbing mountains."

Had Mr Willoughby's housemaster at Harrow not taken him aside at the age of 17 and told him: "Let's get one thing quite clear, Anthony, you're far too stupid to go to a university", his life might have been very different.

His father, Colonel Maurice Willoughby - a former military attaché in Sudan, 1948 Olympics skier, sports journalist, and the subject of a BBC documentary about why it is never too late to learn hang-gliding and other daredevil feats (his motto is: "A little bit of danger keeps you up to scratch") - wanted his son to follow him into khaki.

Willoughby, flummoxed by his housemaster's frankness, decided to explore alternatives to the traditional path and developed a taste for travel. He roamed through North

and South America, trekked through jungles, climbed mountains Kilimanjaro, Kenya and Stanley in a single month, and recently led a party of 11 people and 35 camels across the Taklimakan Shamo desert in China. He has just spent four days on ice floes in the Arctic Circle "just for fun".

A few years ago he tried Japanese "hell training" for himself and has little to say for it: "There is absolutely no self-development there whatsoever. It is purely repetition. You scream things like, 'Take heed, there is no value in sympathy' or 'To think you will be liked by your subordinates is wishful thinking. I say to you, throw down your shield and allow yourself to feel the arrows of criticism.' All the time there is this ridiculous screaming."

"The aim is to degrade, to remove identity. It is very unpleasant. You watch people break down and cry. Most of it is about destroying individuality."

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THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM

Menacing political and racial fallout from the nationalist uprising in Azerbaijan

Bonn fears for Gorbachov's future

From Ian Murray, Bonn, and Joe Joseph, Tokyo

Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the West German Defence Minister, became the first senior member of the Bonn Government yesterday to question publicly whether President Gorbachov could survive. In an interview with the newspaper, *Die Welt*, he said that "a change in the (Soviet) leadership cannot be ruled out".

He thought it unlikely that Mr Gorbachov could quickly settle the problems caused by the nationalist pressures. It was quite possible that a lengthy crisis would damage the leadership and its ability to run the country, he said. Although West Germany naturally had an interest in seeing a successful completion of the reform process, he said that the future was quite open: "We must thoughtfully prepare ourselves as well for negative developments."

However his warning about President Gorbachov was being interpreted as a clear sign that he is fighting to stop the Defence Budget being slashed by trying to make his colleagues realise that there are many dangers ahead before peace can be assured without a strong military defence.

In Tokyo, Mr Boris Yeltsin, the radical Soviet deputy, issued a warning yesterday that conservatives in the Kremlin were keen to extend the state of emergency, already declared in Azerbaijan, to the whole of the Soviet Union.

"I think the conservative group in the leadership is very eager to announce a state of emergency all over the country in order to introduce dictatorship and rule by iron fist," he told a news conference.

"They are trying to make a return to the very difficult past from which we have just begun to free ourselves."

Mr Yeltsin said that, with time and the Soviet people's patience running out for President Gorbachov, matters could come to a head within a fortnight, possibly at the plenary of the Central Committee on February 5 and 6.

"This plenary meeting will discuss the Central Committee's platform for the 28th party congress. It will be a very critical moment," Mr Yeltsin said. If changes to the party's structure and place in society were cosmetic rather than radical and certain dogmas were not abolished, "then we will quickly see the party splitting up into separate groups".

"Taking into consideration the people's dissatisfaction with the situation, that might prompt the conservatives to impose an emergency, Gorbachov must make his choice."

Radical measures might save the party and halt the decline in its popularity, Mr Yeltsin said. He blamed Mr Gorbachov for most of his



Azerbaijani demonstrators burning their Communist Party cards during a rally, called by the nationalist People's Front, in the town of Khanlar yesterday.

current difficulties, saying that his policy of "half-measures and compromises cannot satisfy the population. He cannot decide which way to lean."

"For the past few months he has been leaning more to the right. If the situation continues like that, it won't last long. But if he understands that the way out is in introducing radical reforms, we will support him and then perestroika could be reanimated."

At the plenary meeting, he should oust the most conservative members of the Politburo, such as Mr Yegor Ligachov. Asked if he had an eye on Mr Gorbachov's job, Mr Yeltsin replied: "Don't provoke me."

More than two-thirds of the deputies in the Iranian Parliament, the Majlis, signed a letter yesterday in Tehran addressed to President Gorbachov urging him to refrain immediately from the further use of force in Soviet Azerbaijan.

Many of the 160 signatories, themselves ethnic Azerbaijanis, told Mr Gorbachov that the militants who had died on the streets of Baku had only wanted "to return to the bosom of Islam".

"We ask the Soviet leader not to be influenced by ploys of world arrogance and criminal America and treat peacefully the Soviet Muslims, whose hearts are alight with the love of Islam," the deputies said. Having failed to report the anti-Armenian pogroms of the past two weeks in Soviet Azerbaijan which preceded the intervention, the Iranian press portrayed the intervention as an anti-Islamic act urged on by "world arrogance", meaning the West. *Kayhan*, one of Tehran's main mass-circulation newspapers, referred to the Soviet Union's current reform programme as "Gorbachov's bloody glasnost" yesterday.

Iranian protest to Kremlin

By Hahir Teimourian

Mr Gorbachov has blamed Muslim fundamentalists for the turmoil in the southern republic and the Soviet media have claimed that the estimated 40,000 Soviet Azerbaijanis who visited Iran clandestinely over the past few weeks have returned with weapons obtained from Iranians. Tehran has denied the claim.

The Iranian Government, however, said it merely regretted "the violence" in Soviet Azerbaijan on Monday and asked Mr Gorbachov to grant "the legitimate demands of the Muslim people of Soviet Azerbaijan".

Mr Gorbachov has blamed Muslim fundamentalists for the turmoil in the southern republic and the Soviet media have claimed that the estimated 40,000 Soviet Azerbaijanis who visited Iran clandestinely over the past few weeks have returned with weapons obtained from Iranians. Tehran has denied the claim.

Pogrom threat sparks Jewish flight to Israel

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Jewish refugees from Azerbaijan arriving in Israel yesterday reported a rising tide of anti-Semitism in the southern Soviet republics and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, vowed that Israel would use "special measures" to help bring more of them to safety.

He gave no details but diplomats recalled that in the past Israel had gone to unusual lengths to rescue Jews from oppressive or unstable regimes, such as airlifting thousands of Ethiopian Jews.

Several hundred Soviet Jews a day are arriving in Israel, partly because they are unable to enter the US which has imposed new restrictions on immigration. Many new arrivals say their main reason for coming to Israel is that the nationalist movements which have sprung up in the Soviet republics have strong anti-Semitic overtones.

"It has not yet reached the stage of pogroms but that is the next step," said one Jewish immigrant from the Ukraine. At least 100,000 Soviet Jews are expected here this year and the fighting between Azerbaijanis and Armenians has increased the flow.

Visiting an absorption centre in Jerusalem yesterday, Mr Shamir said, "We have already done various things to bring out the Jews there faster. We are also making efforts in all sorts of places to mobilize all means of air transport possible."

He said that Israeli officials had issued "a large number" of emigration documents to Azerbaijani Jews. Mr Teddy Kollek, the Mayor of Jerusalem, yesterday told the Patriarch of the Armenian Church, the leader of the Armenian community in Jerusalem, that he would do all he could to help the community absorb Armenian Christian refugees from the current violence.

Earlier this week, leading Palestinians in the occupied territories sent President Gorbachov a letter urging him to stop the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. They cited Mr Shamir's declared aim of settling the new arrivals in the occupied West Bank. Wholesale settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Arab areas would seriously hinder the chances of a peace settlement, the Palestinians said.

Yesterday Mr Shamir angrily rejected this claim, saying that the Palestinian leaders clearly did not understand the reason for the Jewish state's existence or the right of Jews to settle anywhere they wished.

One of several Azerbaijani Jews who arrived here yesterday, on a specially chartered El Al jet from Budapest, said that there was mounting hostility towards Jews among Azerbaijani nationalists. Mr Natan Sherinov, a trumpeter with the Baku Symphony Orchestra, said that slogans on the walls of Baku houses read: "We give the Armenians one year, the Russians three years, the Jews five years."

Mr Sherinov said Muslim Azerbaijanis nationalists in Baku had told local Jews that they should join the struggle against Armenian and Soviet "enemies" because "we gave you homes and jobs, and now it is time to repay us". But Mr Sherinov said that he and other Jews had replied: "This is not our war."

Mrs Bella Kogan, a civil engineer from the Ukraine who has also emigrated, said that nationalists there were also anti-Semitic. She said: "In the Ukraine, I had a home and a job. But I felt we had to go, we were afraid of civil war." Mrs Kogan said Jews were being portrayed in the Ukrainian press and on television as "the enemy" as confused citizens searched for a scapegoat for the current instability and disintegration of the communist system.

Mr Sherinov predicted that the entire Jewish population of Baku, which he said numbered 100,000, would leave over the next three years.

Crisis looms over Front's role in poll

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

The 145-member National Salvation Front, which runs Romania's provisional Government, provoked fresh controversy after a heated crisis meeting of its full council yesterday by announcing that it will itself contest forthcoming elections.

But it also announced a short delay in the staging of what will be the first post-revolutionary general election, and said it had asked the United Nations to send observers to ensure that it is conducted fairly.

The Front, widely criticized inside Romania for being a vehicle to allow former supporters of the Ceausescu regime to retain power, denied that it would fight the election as a political party, but its critics dispute this.

Announcing the decisions, unexpectedly taken without consultation with the 15 registered political parties, Professor Silviu Brucan, a leading member of the Front's executive, said the election would now be held on Sunday, May 20 and not in late April as previously planned.

Some of the fledgling parties had demanded a longer delay, but Professor Brucan argued forcibly that the Front had every right to make unilateral decisions on such matters as the election date because of the legitimacy it had gained from leading the December uprising.

He likened the Front's rights to name a date with those of Mrs Thatcher, adding: "We cannot be more democratic than Britain."

Professor Brucan reacted angrily to hostile questions. At one stage a Romanian journalist shouted "No democracy", and more angry reaction was expected to the Front's bold announcement of final election plans in advance of the first meeting of the round-table talks between itself and the new parties to discuss electoral law.

The talks have already been postponed and are not expected to begin now until next weekend. British officials have argued that consultations at the round-table should precede such final decisions as were announced yesterday.

One correspondent, who asked how the Front could stand for elections without

becoming a party, was told brusquely that he was "a victim of 19th-century ideological prejudices". Professor Brucan, the Front's leading intellectual, cited the Greens in West Germany and Solidarity in Poland as similar examples of groups standing for election who, he claimed, were not political parties.

The professor, a former ambassador to the United States and the United Nations, claimed that the Front's formal decision to put forward candidates had been taken after requests from a group of miners and from students, who complained that all the 15 newly registered parties were too unknown to vote for.

"If we did not participate in the elections, a political vacuum would have been created," he said.

He denied that members of the military high command, some of whom hold senior Front positions, would be joining its list of candidates. The idea of calling in UN observers had been floated informally some days ago, and has already been bitterly attacked in sections of the newly liberated Romanian press.

One newspaper said that it would amount to treating Romania as a war zone such as Lebanon or the Israeli occupied territories, rather than a normal country conducting its first general election for many years.

Since its foundation, the Front has been strongly

criticized by many leading Romanian dissidents for sheltering large numbers of people who collaborated with the Ceausescu regime.

Faced by scepticism at the crowded press conference, Professor Brucan insisted that the Front's decision to run in an election which it would also supervise would meet the public demand for a quick removal from the system of top Communists.

He refused, however, to specify the exact status of the Romanian Communist Party after several embarrassing changes of mind by the provisional leadership about its legal standing.

In diplomatic circles, yesterday's decisions were seen as likely to increase friction between the Front and Romania's new political groupings, most of which are inexperienced, under-financed and short on ideology. They have already accused it of monopolizing the levers of power, notably the right to appear on television.

Western governments, who have sent delegations to Romania since the revolution, all see a real dilemma over the timing of the election. A long postponement would have exposed the Front to additional criticism that it was attempting to extend its own power without first seeking democratic support.

Many ordinary Romanians, questioned by Western journalists, have nevertheless expressed a desire that the

Front's leaders should stand, since they are the best-known political figures in Romania after 25 years of Communist repression.

Professor Brucan hinted strongly yesterday that some of the parties might choose to stand in the election under the Front's umbrella, leading to a broadly based coalition for Romania's first post-Ceausescu administration.

Guard increased: The number of tanks and soldiers guarding key installations in Bucharest has been stepped up, and in some cases doubled because of concern that members of the Securitate and others loyal to Nicolae Ceausescu may use January 26, which would have been his 72nd birthday, to cause trouble.

Although senior government officials have attempted to quash rumours sweeping the city of leaflets being circulated threatening revenge on that day, tension persists.

The threats are being treated seriously by members of the new political parties who allege that most Securitate men are still free.

Mr Nicolai Costel, the spokesman for one of them, the Christian Democratic Party, said: "Army intelligence, using sophisticated communications equipment received from Israel, has intercepted messages between former terrorists who still have heavy weaponry, including explosives."

Spectrum, page 12

Markovic plays down big split in Yugoslav ranks

From Dassa Trevisan and John Holland, Belgrade

Mr Ante Markovic, the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, told the nation in a broadcast yesterday his Government would continue to function with or without the League of Communists, after a walkout by Slovene delegates to an extraordinary party congress on Monday brought nearer a formal party split.

Mr Markovic emphasized that he took orders only from Parliament, and not from political parties, as newspapers announced that "the League of Communists of Yugoslavia no longer exists".

Mr Markovic also stands to benefit from the spectacle of delegates breaking up the congress without much chance of patching up their differences or resurrecting the communist party which, for many years, clung to its political monopoly while dying on its feet.

To reassure the outside world that the collapse of the party did not mean the collapse of the Government's reformist programme, Mr Markovic sent Mr Zivko Pregl, the Deputy Prime Minister, to the congress to tell reporters that the results of the congress would in no way affect the Government as the party represents only 10 per cent of Yugoslavia's 23 million people.

If anyone has helped to edge the party to the margins of Yugoslav life, it is Mr Markovic. He lost no time

announcing that the Government intended to table constitutional amendments on Friday which, apart from proposals to give the federal administration power to implement its economic programme, would also remove the political monopoly.

Speaking in Parliament, when he assumed his post less than a year ago, Mr Markovic said: "We cannot have economic pluralism, which includes competition between private and public ownership, without political pluralism, which means a free contest of parties and programmes."

In contrast to most Yugoslav politicians, who appear humble, Mr Markovic has an aura of self-confidence and obviously cultivates such an image. He has built up his own power base and acts like an

elected leader, with ordinary people behind him, who knows that his job is to provide effective medicines for Yugoslavia's sick economy and secure consensus after almost a decade of strife.

Mr Markovic, aged 65, has a long career behind him. One of the few Yugoslavs still active on the political scene who can claim to have been one of Tito's partisans during the Second World War, he represents a link with the past.

While he belongs to the partisan generation, however, during more than 20 years as a leader of one of Croatia's most successful industries, he has also displayed the mentality of a capitalist manager.

At the time when Yugoslavia's inflation rate ran close to 3,000 per cent and the national currency, the dinar, had been losing value for years, he declared it open for exchange and announced a package which included new denominations of the currency.

By tolerating inflation, he may have brought his reforms into question. And his Government's social programme may not prove strong enough to contain labour unrest at a time when many Yugoslavs live in poverty.

However, he has shown that the Yugoslav state and the Government can function regardless of the communist party.

Domino fear, page 14

Mr Markovic cultivates an image of self-confidence.

Mr Markovic cultivates an image of self-confidence.

Aid plea to avert mass starvation in Romania

By Daniel Treisman

Romania faces a threat of mass starvation unless massive emergency food supplies are made available, according to relief workers, one of whom has organized aid convoys into remote villages in the country's mountainous interior.

Foreign governments and charities, however, have been slow to recognize the severity of hunger in less accessible regions of the country, and are accused of providing too little too late.

"There are people whose faces and hands are just skin and bones, children with blown-up bellies. In some villages of several hundred, all the inhabitants are clearly suffering from malnutrition," Herr Erich Fritsch, who led a convoy of aid lorries from Munich to 22 villages in the Carpathian mountains in early January, said.

A fellow aid worker who returned from Romania 10 days ago confirmed that the situation was potentially

catastrophic. Two priests, one in the Carpathians and one in Brasov who are in touch with churches throughout the region, independently estimated that in Transylvania alone, between two and five million people were close to starvation - consuming less than 1,000 calories a day.

Telephone calls to the group from Romanians in Brasov and Bucharest at the weekend claimed that

Bucharest (Reuters) - Mr Mihail Lupul, the new Romanian Tourism Minister, plans to use the bloody revolution that ousted Nicolae Ceausescu to attract visitors. He intends offering tours of the dictator's palaces, underground bunkers and a vast network of tunnels beneath Bucharest.

"people are beginning to drop from hunger in the streets".

Old age homes, orphanages, and hospitals are particularly badly hit, according to Herr Fritsch, along with all who lack the personal connections

to smooth their way through the resurfacing bureaucracy.

"At one hospital in Brasov we saw eight or 10 people split up one chicken," Herr Fritsch said. In the small towns, where temperatures at night fall as low as -36C, the team found elderly couples huddling in flats, unknown to local administrators who denied there was starvation in the area.

Working with Romanian exiles abroad, Herr Fritsch established a network of contacts throughout the region, with lists of the needy in 47 towns and villages, to bypass potentially corrupt state officials.

Most foreign aid so far has been concentrated in areas near the Hungarian border and a high proportion in larger cities like Timisoara and Bucharest, Herr Fritsch said. Food distributed to local state officials, many of whom held office in the Ceausescu regime, is often siphoned off to their families and connections. The old guard, resurfacing on local

branches of the Council of National Salvation, is using donated food to strengthen its power over the dependent population, he fears.

To prevent staff at hospitals stealing patients' supplies, Herr Fritsch's group handed out care packages directly to each patient, gave nurses and kitchen personnel their own, and warned they would return for spot checks a few days later.

Despite the severity of the crisis, Western aid organizations and governments have lacked the information and experience in the region to react fast and have concentrated on medical supplies rather than food.

Of £1.5 million raised by the British Red Cross in its Romania appeal, about £300,000 has so far been spent on emergency drugs, medical equipment and vehicles to distribute aid. The International Red Cross has been meeting in Bucharest to decide on its future strategy, but a British Red Cross official expects medical supplies to remain the priority.

Mongolians are promised vote on positions in local parties

East Berlin (Reuters) - The Mongolian communist party, facing unprecedented popular pressure to reform, has promised elections for the first time for local party posts, the official East German news agency, ADN, reported yesterday from the Mongolian capital of Ulan Bator.

The agency said the party newspaper, *Unen*, had announced town and district elections for the third quarter of 1990.

"Preparing party leaders are local for any changes that might follow and have been ordered to heed all wishes and suggestions from their members," the report said.

ADN added that the Politburo of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party had decided to hold elections before its 20th party congress. On Monday the Mongolian Democratic Association, a fledgling reform group demanding an end to the country's 69-year-old communist system, predicted that democracy would take root this year.

Commenting on the group's demands for the first time, a government spokesman told foreign journalists that the ruling party could "envisage a multi-party system".

Mongolia, a vast land of rolling steppes sandwiched between China and the Soviet Union, with a population of two million, is the world's second oldest communist country and remains closely allied to the Soviet Union. But the Democratic Association

has staged four unofficial demonstrations in Ulan Bator since early December and a statue of Josef Stalin was removed last week.

PEKING: The Mongolian communist party said, according to state radio yesterday, it would renounce some of its privileges, including a special hospital, rest home and shop. The radio, monitored here, said that, in response to criticism from within the party and government, the exclusive hospital and rest home would be turned over to the public. The shop would be closed and a limit placed on the use of official cars. These were seen as concessions forced by recent demonstrations.

Hungarians agree with Moscow on troop withdrawal

From Ernest Beck, Budapest

Hungary and the Soviet Union have reached agreement in principle on the complete withdrawal of Soviet forces stationed in the country, the Hungarian Prime Minister, Mr Miklos Nemeth, told Parliament yesterday.

Mr Nemeth said he had received a letter from his Soviet opposite number, Mr Nikolai Ryzhkov, confirming the view of both countries that the continued presence of an estimated 60,000 Soviet troops in Hungary was "unjustified and untenable" and was based on what was described as "old historical conceptions".

High-level talks between Soviet and Hungarian foreign and defence experts are to begin in Budapest next week on a possible timetable for the withdrawal, Mr Nemeth said.

Mr Ferenc Karpati, the Hungarian Defence Minister, said, however, that no fixed date had been agreed on and that a complete withdrawal was dependent on an agreement being reached at the talks in Vienna on reducing conventional forces in Europe.

"If agreement is reached, a Soviet withdrawal would be technically possible within 12 months," Mr Karpati said. But he ruled out any unilateral Soviet withdrawal which, he said, could destabilize Europe.

If Budapest and Moscow can agree on a timetable for

withdrawal, it could serve as a model for other Warsaw Pact countries, like Czechoslovakia and Poland, which have also said they want Soviet forces to be withdrawn as soon as possible.

Soviet troops have been on Hungarian soil since 1945, when the Soviet Army liberated the country from the Nazis, but their numbers were

on a new security situation between the two military blocs.

Minister resigns Mr Istvan Horvath, the embattled Hungarian Interior Minister who has been at the centre of the "Danubegate" bugging scandal, resigned yesterday in response to opposition demands — a day before the start of the official election campaign for Hungary's first multi-party poll in more than 40 years.

The head of the Internal Security Service and a Deputy Interior Minister have already resigned as a result of disclosures that the service tapped

telephones, bugged flats and intercepted post to gather information on members of opposition parties, possibly passing the data on to the ruling Hungarian Socialist Party.

Mr Horvath, who had denied any direct knowledge of illegal surveillance methods, accused the opposition Alliance of Free Democrats, who broke the scandal, of instigating a witch hunt in an attempt to gain power.

Mr Miklos Nemeth, the Prime Minister, followed with a combative speech which portrayed the scandal as a political issue, and warned of "forces who want to make Hungary ungovernable". He said the public now believed the Government was on the brink of collapse.

Almost all political parties in Hungary support the idea of a Soviet troop withdrawal, but all tend to agree that, if Hungary were also to leave the Warsaw Pact at this stage, it would upset efforts for an overall European agreement

greatly increased during the 1956 uprising, which was brutally put down by Soviet tanks.

Mr Horvath announcing his resignation to Parliament.

Up for grabs: An East German border guard watching yesterday as a crane removes part of a graffiti-covered section of the Berlin Wall, to be sold to the highest bidder for souvenirs.

East Germany weighs up offers for Wall

From Ian Murray, Bonn and Anne McElvey and Andrew McEwen, East Berlin

Laid down and racked with care like old bottles of wine at the Puschkin Allee crossing-point are 40 complete sections of the Berlin Wall taken from the stretch of the Cold War frontier near the Brandenburg Gate.

City workers who began pulling down a 300-yard section of the former "anti-fascist protection wall" on Monday night in the Kreuzberg area of the city were under orders not to damage the giant chunks of concrete fast becoming international collector's items worth millions of pounds.

The L-shaped segments, each 4 ft wide and 12 ft high, were offered for sale by the East German Government earlier this year at 500,000 Deutschmarks (£177,300) each, complete with graffiti.

According to Herr Helge Möbius, of the VEB Linex import-export company entrusted with the sale, the Wall has attracted offers from as far afield as Japan and America, as well as from West Germany. One bidder for a section of the infamous monument is Paul McCartney, the pop star, but Herr Möbius would not reveal how much the former Beatle was prepared to pay.

Linex has received a \$500,000 offer from the United States for a long segment of the Wall to be re-erected there. "The stretch behind the Brandenburg Gate is particularly sought after," says Herr Möbius; "we will drive a hard bargain before we let that one go."

To guard against forgery, each lump of pre-cast concrete to be sold will be numbered and authenticated by a medal stamped with Berlin's old

arms. Some East Germans have objected to the sale. One wrote to say it was "unbelievable" to make money out of something which had been drenched in blood and tears.

But Herr Möbius is unrepentant. Fashionably attired in a suit and slick of manner he thumbs through a pile of colour photos of the section on the table.

"This section of the Wall has some of the best graffiti in all of Berlin," he says. "People are buying it as a work of art."

Herr Möbius says that the moral aspects of the sale have been seriously considered. In consequence, it has been decided that no piece will be offered for sale if somebody was shot against it.

Much smaller pieces of the Wall are being offered but the East German state must move swiftly if it is to salvage much. Despite new painted official notices — in the style of round road signs with a red hammer crossed through — "wall chippers" are constantly at work on the western side, opening up holes as they take away pieces for souvenirs or sale.

The decision this week to tear down a 300-yard length of the wall that divided Berlin for a generation and replace it with a wire fence 6 ft high could well have been motivated by the need to save the valuable concrete for future hard-currency sales.

The Wall was built just inside East German territory so that there could be no question of the Western powers interfering with it. Therefore it legally belongs to East Germany, which says it intends to spend the proceeds of its piecemeal sale on cultural and medical projects.

Modrow calls for calm after clashes

From Andrew McEwen, Leipzig

Herr Hans Modrow, the East German Prime Minister, yesterday appealed for calm after the first violent clashes in the huge and previously peaceful weekly protests in Leipzig.

There were scuffles in the crowd, estimated at up to 200,000 people, which was calling for German reunification, when a small counter-group began singing "The Internationale".

Their voices were drowned by the angry crowd shouting: "Reds out of the demonstration". Although clashes were on a small scale, concern is mounting that they could jeopardize East Germany's peaceful transition to democracy.

After talks with Mr Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, Herr Modrow said: "The danger of trouble — I can't dismiss that. The events in Leipzig didn't really have such a dangerous character, but we have to start from the point that the election process... really must remain one free of violence."

Herr Modrow said that events in East Berlin a week ago, when an angry crowd invaded the headquarters of the Stasi, were a signal that people should stay calm. "It was a signal for everybody that we must avoid violence. We need democracy in the period of preparing for these elections."

These concerns are shared by Mr Hurd, who emphasized during the talks that the future depended on the elections in May being conducted democratically.

Herr Modrow had told Mr Hurd that talk of reunification was all very well, but that there was a danger of a political vacuum developing

in which the two Germanies would reunite without any act of political self-determination beforehand.

Herr Modrow, who is to take part in further round-table talks today, has accepted opposition demands for greater participation in the coalition Government, but he made it clear that there was still a danger that the Government would collapse, jeopardizing the elections.

He added that further political turmoil would call into

Poll demand

Bonn — The West German Government is to seek fundamental changes to the four-power agreement on Berlin so that West Berliners can vote in the West German general election, to be held in December (Ian Murray writes). The Christian Democrats have decided to press the issue, and the Western allies — Britain, France and the US — will be asked to support the idea. The Soviet Union has refused to discuss it.

question all that had been achieved so far. The danger of extremism was coupled with that of instability and tension.

The demonstrations underlined the gulf between the popular mood in Leipzig and Dresden and the cautious line on reunification taken by the Government.

Most political factions favour slow progress on reunification, mainly because of fears that East Germany would be the weaker partner in a federation with its richer and bigger Western half.

Thatcher's paralysis, page 14

Eight trains bombed

Tokyo (AP) — Time bombs believed set by left-wing radicals exploded almost simultaneously on eight trains in the Tokyo area early yesterday, but no injuries were reported. Japan's best-known radical group, the Chukaku-ha (Middle Core Faction), has claimed responsibility, declaring "unlimited war" against plans for the formal coronation of Emperor Akihito in November and against the planned expansion of Tokyo's international airport.

23 die in plane

Caracas (Reuters) — A military plane crashed into a hillside near the Venezuelan capital early yesterday killing all 24 people on board.

Back to work

Kampala (AP) — Uganda's Makerere university, closed three months ago after a withdrawal of government allowances led to a student boycott, has reopened.

Leader dies

Vicenza (Reuters) — Signor Mariano Rumor, five times Italian Prime Minister and a former Christian Democrat leader, has died of a heart attack at the age of 74.

Divorce suit

Cape Elizabeth, Maine (AP) — Mrs Dorothy Bush LeBlond, daughter of President Bush, says "irreconcilable differences" have compelled her to seek a divorce from Mr William LeBlond.

Cake walk

Baghdad (AFP) — Malek Mahdi Kadhim, an Iraqi baker, is baking a cake 1,417 yards long to be unveiled in Baghdad on the 53rd birthday of President Saddam Hussein.

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ABBNEY NATIONAL

January 23 1990

PARLIAMENT

Major rejects charges of economic confusion

The economic outlook was for modest growth with demand at home pretty flat, Mr John Major, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said when he opened a Commons debate on his autumn statement, which outlined government spending plans.

With hindsight, he said, it was clear that the Government should have acted earlier to restrain excessive growth in domestic demand. But just as the problem took time to develop it would take time to remedy. Interest rates would remain high for some time to come, he said.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on Treasury affairs, said that Britain made the 1980s disorganised, confused, and not knowing what Government policy was.

The people knew that the Government had been responsible for some big mistakes in the 1980s, and they knew that those who made them should not be given responsibility for guiding our affairs in the 1990s.

Opening the debate, Mr Major said that the Government's general attitude on public spending had not changed one iota. Proper control, tight control, remained central to its economic strategy.

"The whole expenditure survey process is essentially about ensuring that we are getting the best possible value for money... on behalf of the taxpayer. At no time does it mean taking as hard a look at pay and running costs as any private-sector employer."

"The private sector meets pay costs out of its own money. The Government meets its pay costs out of other people's money and we have to balance the taxpayer's interest too."

"We have to ensure that money we provide for public services goes predominantly on the services and not on unjustified pay increases."

Spending on the NHS had increased by a third in real terms since 1978-79 and there had been a substantial increase in spending on social security.

Capital spending on roads would increase by about 25 per cent over the next three years

and capital spending on railways by 75 per cent.

Over the past six years 2,750,000 new jobs had been created and there had been a 40 per cent increase in business investment in the past three years. Both were without precedent for a generation.

The supply side of the economy had performed admirably. The decline in Britain's share of world trade had been stopped and was now probably in reverse.

Unfortunately domestic supply had not kept pace with domestic demand over the past couple of years. The result had been an increase in inflation and a rise in the current-account deficit.

"With hindsight, it is clear that we should have acted earlier to restrain this excessive demand growth - and we acted."

Budget Day

The Budget will be on Tuesday, March 28. Mr Major told MPs at the start of the debate.

on our concerns as early as the August of 1987 when Mr Nigel Lawson (the former chancellor) raised interest rates by 1 per cent."

That had preceded the Stock Exchange crash and the associated risk of recession had led Britain, along with all other leading nations, to reduce interest rates.

At that time, outside commentators agreed that loosening was appropriate, as did Labour MPs who urged a greater relaxation.

The Opposition had urged a cut in interest rates and a boost in demand. It would have been disastrous if they had taken Labour's advice.

Just as the problem took time to develop it would take time to remedy. "I have no doubt that the rapid growth in domestic demand has come to an end."

The housing market, an important factor in the upswing of inflation, had now cooled off. Retail sales growth in the past year had been modest. The trade deficit was showing signs of improvement, exports were performing well, import growth had moderated.

"No one should doubt that interest rates are working." But we were only just turning the

corner. There could be no early relaxation. Interest rates would remain high for some time.

Inflation had to be turned decisively down, and stay down. No one wanted to see a return to the runaway inflation of the 1970s. "I look forward to the day when I can say that interest rates can come down, but I do not see that as being imminent."

It would not be wise for anyone to act in the belief that it would be.

Nor was it any part of policy to restrain private spending only to let public spending grow out of control. The fiscal stance must be tight. There was a prospect of clocking up a further substantial Budget surplus this year even if it would be less than had been thought. The debt repayment now looked like being less than the £12.5 billion projected at the time of the autumn statement.

Corporation tax receipts were lower than forecast, due in part to higher levels of investment than had been estimated. Local authority debt repayment was lower than expected. But there would still be a healthy fiscal surplus this year.

The economic outlook was for modest growth with demand at home pretty flat. It was not the most appealing prospect. But the alternative, allowing the economy to face the coming decade under a serious inflation handicap, would be unpalatable.

British industry entered the 1990s in a vigorous and healthy condition that would have been unthinkable a decade ago. Far from being divisive, the economic and social changes in the 1980s had eroded the them-and-us divide.

"Britain has nothing to gain, not now, not ever, from a high or even modest rate of inflation. That would be the worst possible thing for everyone, for business, for families, for the weakest in our society."

The Government would play its part of the bargain by taking whatever action was necessary to get inflation down. "I cannot be done with hopes nor with lurches in policy. But it can be done by the persistent and consistent use of monetary and fiscal policy. That is what we shall do."

Mr Smith said that hype, exaggeration, self-congratulation, casuistry and complacency

had characterized Government presentation of economic policy for the past decade.

Unfortunately for apologists like Mr Major they had been blown apart by three stark economic facts which even Government apologists and media apparatchiks could gain say and which, significantly, Mr Major had not mentioned.

Britain had the highest balance of payments deficit in history; the rate of inflation was the highest of the main countries of the EC; interest rates at 15 per cent were the highest of the leading industrial nations.

West Germany had invested in the manufacturing sector and the public sector, particularly in education and training. They had by far the best record in the Community. Britain had failed to invest in education and training in the 1980s and had inadequate ambitions for the 1990s. The CBI had expressed concern at the lack of investment.

Mr Major intervened to suggest that Britain had the greatest European growth in investment throughout the 1980s.

Mr Smith said that was the most misleading way of presenting economic statistics. There was a difference between manufacturing investment and business investment.

The Chancellor counted as business investment the creation of a car park outside a leisure centre, or a shopping centre on a site which had previously been a manufacturing enterprise. It was that investment the Government was claiming would do even better.

"The crucial difference is, when we had a manufacturing sector, we made goods and sold them to people abroad. Now we have shops which sell imported goods that other people make."

The medium-term financial strategy used to be the very rock upon which Conservative economic policy was based, but Mr Major had not even mentioned it today.

The Chancellor was hoping somehow to get by to the next election, to stagger through the months ahead in the hope that when the Prime Minister blew the whistle for the next election, the economy would not look "too unfavourable."

Mr Cecil Franks (Barrow and Furness, C) had asked her to confirm that the hallmark of a free and civilized society was the rule of law, and that people who had power and authority were subject to that law, and that all were equal before the law. "Will she consult with her Cabinet colleagues about the apparent assertion of the former Chief Constable of Northern Ireland that a man no longer remains innocent until proven guilty and the apparent introduction by the Chief Constable of Manchester of the concept of guilt by association."

"Will she confirm that no matter what happens in the rest of the world, in this country, in these islands, justice and freedom from fear prevail."

Cricket tour 'no breach of pact'

The Prime Minister was urged at question time to tell the rebel cricketers in South Africa to pack their bags and come home. Mr George Howarth (Knowsley North, Lab) said that the tour was a breach of the Glenageas agreement.

Would the Prime Minister accept the words of Sebastian Coe, describing the rebel players as "nothing less than mercenaries?"

Mrs Thatcher said that the Minister for Sport, Mr Colin Moynihan, had indicated the Government's views. It had tried to persuade them not to go. The tour, however, was not in breach of the Glenageas agreement.

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Thatcher reply on Stalker

The Prime Minister told MPs she could not understand why Mr John Stalker was delaying giving to the "appropriate authorities" the evidence of which he has been speaking in public.

Mr Cecil Franks (Barrow and Furness, C) had asked her to confirm that the hallmark of a free and civilized society was the rule of law, and that people who had power and authority were subject to that law, and that all were equal before the law. "Will she consult with her Cabinet colleagues about the apparent assertion of the former Chief Constable of Northern Ireland that a man no longer remains innocent until proven guilty and the apparent introduction by the Chief Constable of Manchester of the concept of guilt by association."

"Will she confirm that no matter what happens in the rest of the world, in this country, in these islands, justice and freedom from fear prevail."

Inquiry on incinerator sites in NE

Issues common to the proposed construction of three toxic-waste incinerators in the north-east of England are to be dealt with at a joint inquiry, Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Under Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs late on Monday.

He said that although the three incinerators, at East Houghton, Tyne-side, and at Seal Sands, near Peterborough, were 40 miles apart, there was a significant overlap in the waste streams which the incinerators would deal with. The first two sites are already subject to an appeal at the Secretary of State.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory said that the Secretary of State was considering an application in respect of the third.

Transitional period 'can be extended'

The Government proposal that the transitional period for business rates should be five years was not an absolute figure, and it could be extended, the Prime Minister said at question time.

She said that the North wanted the transitional period to be as quick as possible so that it could gain some £900 million, but the South and the Midlands wanted it to be longer.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, had attacked the number of bankruptcies and closed businesses, but Mrs Thatcher replied that on the critical test, the net increase in number of businesses, the Government had a pretty good record, leading to more new jobs being created than under Labour.

Mr Kinnock: With business bankruptcies increasing and industrial output falling, will she

say that her high-interest policies are having the effect she intended?

Mrs Thatcher: Of course, there are always some businesses that go down during... (Labour interruptions). There are some that go down and some that come back, and we have many, many new ones starting up.

She said that during 1978, the last year under Labour, there had been 6,000 more closing than starting. In 1988, 64,000 more businesses opened than closed (Conservative cheers).

Mr Kinnock: It is past references to keep on their feet, does that mean that under her Government the record number of business failures was in 1984, when there were 22,000, and last

Fixed date sought for State Opening

The Queen might find it easier to plan her engagements if there were a fixed date for the State Opening of Parliament, a Conservative peer told the Lords.

Viscount Mountbatten (C) commented: The Sovereign might find it easier to manipulate her diary if she knew what we were doing. It could be extended if need be.

Mrs Margaret Ewing (Moray, SNP) said that last Thursday Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) said that the Government had a clear obligation to treat each constituent part of the United Kingdom with parity. If she endorsed that view, would she encourage the 35 rebels of last Thursday to do the same this Thursday when similar legislation for Scotland was debated.

Mrs Thatcher said that if Mrs Ewing sought parity for each particular region of Britain, Scotland would not be doing anything like as well as now.

Set-aside land

The Countryside Commission has drawn up agreements with farmers covering more than 3,500 hectares of set-aside land, which is to be managed to provide benefits for landscape and wildlife and new areas of countryside for the public to enjoy, Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, Under Secretary of State, Environment, said in a written reply.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory said that the Commission had agreed to provide a written reply.

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GPs 'striking chronically sick from their lists'

A number of general practitioners are beginning to strike from their lists elderly and chronically sick patients fearing them to be "potentially un-economic" under the health service reforms, four MPs alleged at question time.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, promised to look into the cases they raised and told the House that there was no justification for a GP taking such action.

He said of one alleged to be involved: I suspect he is yet another doctor who has been misled by some of the rather over-the-top campaigning which went on about the contract last summer.

Mr Mike Watson (Glasgow Central, Lab), raising the issue, said that the reforms, far from increasing choice, meant that some patients were losing the choice to remain with their existing GP.

Mr Clarke said that he had seen no evidence that any such practice was taking place. If any GPs were striking elderly or chronically sick patients from their lists, they would be doing

so on a mistaken interpretation of their contract. There was no case of a Mrs Jackson who had arrived home from hospital to find on her doorstep a letter from Hillingdon Family Practitioner Committee saying that she was going to be struck off her GP's list because she was going to require too many night visits.

Would he monitor the growing number of so-called "un-economic patients" who, because of the GPs' contracts and the changes in the forthcoming NHS Bill were losing the right to stay with their GPs?

Mr Clarke said that he would certainly look into that case if Mrs Harman passed to him evidence to support it. "I would strongly disapprove of anybody being struck off on that ground or any other."

"The only change that the new contract is making is that those doctors who carry out their night visits or send a doctor from their own practice to see a patient as much as for that visit as one who uses a deputising service." If the allegation was true, he would investigate it closely.

Mr Peter Pike (Burnley, Lab) said that he had received a letter from a constituent enclosing one from his doctor. It stated that the way the Government had changed payments to doctors meant that doctors could no longer afford to keep on their lists people who required more night and weekend calls.

The doctor had given that patient and his family 10 days in which to find another doctor. Would Mr Clarke take action to rectify this?

Mr Clarke understood there were uncertainties among doctors as a time of change. It was his understanding that those uncertainties were diminishing very rapidly. The GP-practice budgets were entirely voluntary and only GPs who wanted to

take advantage of them in their practices would apply to do so.

He would look at this letter, but by the account given of it, the doctor had no justification in the contract he had been given for making such statements.

District health authorities have been given notice that they must prepare care programmes for a range of diseases, from psychiatric hospitals, Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for Health, said at questions.

He faced pressure from Conservative MPs for earlier of a mental hospital would not be approved without demonstrably adequate alternative facilities.

Mr Freeman said that no long-stay, mental-hospital would be allowed to close until the NHS was satisfied that proper facilities existed in the community.

Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead, Lab), chairman of the Select Committee on Social Services, welcomed Mr Freeman's statement, adding that in the past 10 years more than 40,000 long-stay patients had been dumped in the community with nowhere to go and many were now wandering the streets. How much new money would the Government provide?

Mr Freeman agreed that discharge policies by some hospitals in the past had been ill-advised by some standards. The Government has outlined specific policies to deal with this, in particular that no one should be discharged today from any psychiatric hospital unless a clear programme had been agreed for their care in the community. From 1991-92 there would be a specific mental-health grant to help local authorities improve the quality of such community care.

Dame Jill Knight (Edgworth, C) welcomed the move to deal with the problem by specific instructions to local authorities. But how long would it be before

this plan reached the point of helping those who had been released? Mr Freeman said that district health authorities had until April 1991 to prepare a proper care programme for all those discharged. Additional funds would be provided for local authorities to improve the quality of social care.

"We hope to bring forward proposals in due course."

Sir William Clark (Croydon South, C) said that mentally ill people discharged from a hospital in Croydon were put in bed-and-breakfast accommodation by the local authority and spent the day walking the streets. "It is all very well for the minister to say that this will be dealt with in 1991. What is going to happen between now and 1991?"

Mr Freeman said that he shared Sir William's concern. District health authorities had been given due notice that they must make progress within 12 months in providing care programmes. "It is not possible to reform procedures overnight. We have made substantial progress."

Ashdown backs 'pooled sovereignty'

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Mr Paddy Ashdown last night called for the creation of a European committee made up of MPs and MEPs to strengthen democracy within the European Community as he delivered a major speech emphasizing the depth of the Liberal Democrat commitment to the European ideal.

With Labour adopting an increasingly moderate policy stance and Mrs Thatcher softening her radical image, Mr Ashdown has sought to position the Liberal Democrats as an area where he can stake out a distinctive position.

The SLD leader poured scorn on both main parties for their outmoded defence of parliamentary sovereignty.

The future lay with a world in which "pooled sovereignty" was

of much greater importance than the "military sovereignty" of the nation state. For this reason a European committee was needed so that Government ministers and the Commission and the Council of Ministers could be properly scrutinized.

The European Parliament was a "pseudo" not a "real" national parliament and the nation state was becoming increasingly outmoded.

"The point for Conservatives like Mrs Thatcher, and there are many who think like her on the Labour benches, is that her view of the British constitution while it had some validity in the nineteenth century, is totally at odds with the needs of a modern Britain, in a modern Europe."

"The medium-sized nation state is no longer sufficiently

large to play a complete role in political and economic affairs."

Speaking in Brussels, Mr Ashdown argued that power needed to be devolved both upwards to Community-wide institutions and downwards to the regions.

Europe was now the "Eurosphere" marking the political parties of the future.

Mr Ashdown committed the SLD to greater democracy within the EC and acceptance of the Delors report as a "sound basis for discussion, setting out the achievement of a new era of European unity, and working with others to ensure that fiscal freedoms and a wide dispersal of power are retained."

He also backed "greater industrial co-ordination and development of a European

industrial strategy". Environmental and social policy should be broadly harmonized across the EC.

With the upheavals in the East, a new security structure for Europe was required. "This is not the moment for second thoughts about the process of economic and political integration in which the Community is now engaged."

In remarks aimed at the Prime Minister's support for a "looser" Communism, Mr Ashdown added: "We the people of the United Kingdom in the East, it takes a mind especially obtuse to history and peculiarity immersed in the myths of Britain's past to propose a return to a Europe based on the 1930s model of competing nations."

Private sector role in student loan scheme

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

The Government confirmed yesterday that it envisages the private sector eventually running its student loans scheme.

Mr Robert Jackson, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, told MPs that the state-owned firm being set up in Glasgow after the late withdrawal of the high street banks could provide "the basis for a banking business."

Ministers believe that loans company will gradually amass a data bank of considerable market value on the financial affairs of students and graduates. They think it should provide possible management and administration of the loans scheme, which will lend taxpayers' money at a

zero real rate of interest.

However, Mr Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said that it was wrong for information collected for the purpose of providing loans to be sold for banking and research uses. He was worried about the civil liberties aspects of such deals and about the security of financial records and other confidential information.

"It looks as if the Government would sell the Student Loans Company to the highest bidder," he said.

Mr Jackson told the standing committee examining the students loans Bill that any information gathered would be covered by the Data Protection Act.



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SPECTRUM

In defence of the Ceausescus

On Christmas Day, Nicu Teodorescu accepted the role of defence counsel in the secret trial of Romania's hated tyrants. Today he gives Paul Martin his account of their final hours

Nicu Teodorescu opens the pink jewellery box that lies on his mahogany desk, to reveal a fragment of a bullet. It is his memento of the day he played the devil's advocate, assigned the task of defending Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu.

Driving back to Bucharest in the dark on Christmas Day from the military barracks where the trial and execution took place, Teodorescu's army vehicle ran into a contingent of Securitate. The secret police, then still putting up a tremendous battle and suspecting that the vehicles' passengers were connected with the trial, opened fire. "A bullet shaved and singed my neck, and struck a colleague alongside me, who died. The next bullet struck me in the lower back as I ducked down," Teodorescu lived to tell an extraordinary tale.

On the morning of Christmas Day the 57-year-old lawyer was not unusually in Romania — at work. A member of the National Salvation Front rang the offices of the College of Advocates (the Romanian equivalent of the Bar Association of which Teodorescu is a member) in Bucharest. The caller wanted to find a defence counsel for the trial of the Ceausescus. Who would be prepared to do the job — that day? Teodorescu, one of the top five of Romania's 800 lawyers, who claims to have defended more than 100 people accused of murder, says: "It seemed an interesting challenge, so I accepted."

He was taken almost immediately to the military barracks 90 miles from the capital where the Ceausescus were being held. There was no time for Teodorescu to discuss possible defences before-

hand with his clients: the Ceausescus were already seated in court when he arrived. Only three civilian observers were present, together with the five judges and assessors, the two prosecutors, two defence lawyers, and a video cameraman. No witnesses were called. Teodorescu estimates that the trial took two to three hours.

He says that he tried to explain to his clients that their only hope of avoiding the death sentence was to plead mental instability. "But when I suggested it, Elena in particular said it was an outrageous set-up. They felt deeply insulted, unable or unwilling to grasp their only lifeline. They rejected my help after that."

"I had always thought Elena was the dominant force in their partnership, but I soon came to realise Nicolae was in command. They complemented each other perfectly — like a monster with two heads."

"I do not believe the court was instructed in advance to sentence them to death. But I had no doubt there would be no other outcome. If they had called for witnesses I believe the court would have refused — the case against them was too strong." The Ceausescus were charged with corruption, embezzlement of funds, economic impoverishment of the nation and the murder of 65,000 people. In his summing up, Teodorescu said that he, too, thought them guilty.

The most startling fact to emerge from Teodorescu's testimony is that the Ceausescus did not die before anything that resembled an orderly firing squad.

"The first they knew they were about to die was when the first bullets hit them," Teodorescu avers. "It was a mere quarter of an hour or so after the death sentence



The tyrants and the advocate: Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu, pictured shortly before they were executed, and (inset), their counsel Nicu Teodorescu

was pronounced. They thought they were walking across the barracks yard to a cell, when suddenly there was a huge burst of fire. I was only there by chance. I'd just collected my coat and was on my way across the same yard about 30 metres away.

"I can't say how many people fired, or if there was any command. But I could see the soldiers let rip. Elena and Nicolae fell head to head. As they fell their bodies spun slightly round and they fell close to each other, about 30 centimetres apart."

If Teodorescu's account is accurate, it would seem likely that it was only later that the bodies were thrown against a wall for the benefit of the camera. "Ceausescu was convinced all along his Securitate would rescue him. He never thought the trial would end, and when it ended he showed absolutely nothing but contempt when death was pronounced," Teodorescu says.

Ceausescu turned to the prosecutor and snapped at him: "What you're saying is a calumny. When this is over I'll have you put on trial." We all laughed.

'They complemented perfectly — they were like a monster with two heads'

seen: those revealed as participants in the trial would, it was feared, become immediate prime targets for the Securitate loyalists. Yet Teodorescu, who has refused to identify any other participants in the trial, proclaims he has nothing to fear. "I was never afraid," he insists.

Teodorescu had less cause to hate the Ceausescus than most Romanians. He admits that lawyers retained somewhat more independence than the bulk of the population, and enjoyed a privileged lifestyle. In his office in Bucharest a huge packet of Kent cigarettes stood on his cabinet — the ubiquitous black market currency.

Yet, he says: "When I saw them dead, as a lawyer I didn't feel anything at all. But as a citizen I, like everybody, rejoiced. It was the most beautiful Christmas in my whole life."

Two days later, as he lay recovering painfully from his own bullet-wound, Teodorescu was told that his 19-year-old son had been killed. An army conscript who had just begun his national service, he had fallen in action against Securitate gunmen three days before the Ceausescu trial.

Now the show trials loom of Ceausescu's henchmen, and of his own sons Nicu, the playboy heir apparent, and Valentin, the corrupt chief of the nuclear programme. His daughter, Zoe, is also likely to face the people's tribunals.

But would Teodorescu accept a brief to defend them? "I defended Ceausescu free of charge; it seemed my duty to do so. But there isn't enough money in the world to make me stand on Nicu's side," he says. "I have had more than enough of the Ceausescus for one lifetime."

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The flavours of Marseilles

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times WEEKDAYS ☐ SATURDAY ☐

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Marseilles is a city that is warm, welcoming and profoundly Mediterranean. It also has a continuing reputation for lawlessness and gangsterism, and the right-wing politics of Jean-Marie Le Pen.

Philip Jacobson, our Paris correspondent, reports in *The Times* on Saturday from the quays and back streets of what was once one of the world's greatest ports, and which remains one of the most exciting cities in France.

West Midlands police authority, responsible for overseeing one of the biggest forces in the country, has just begun its second attempt to find a chief constable it considers worthy of a salary and perks of almost £60,000. Having advertised last autumn for officers of not less than chief constable rank or its equivalent, they were rewarded with four candidates, including chief constables from three county forces.

Norfolk's police authority knows all about the West Midlands' predicament. It has been looking for a chief constable since last spring and the current holder of the post has had to postpone his retirement. In London, the Home Office recently took two years to find a suitable new assistant commissioner, salary £52,000 a year.

Slowly but surely, the system for choosing the top ranks of the police service shows signs of seizing up, raising the question of whether it should be changed. Later this year, a Green Paper on policing in the 1990s could make recommendations to put an end to the problems of forces such as the West Midlands and Norfolk.

The current selection system starts with an advertisement for applications from

If nobody will fit The Bill

Police authorities run into problems finding top men for their forces

officers of a suitable rank. Critics say the problems can start right there.

Some officers do not apply because they know the force has a deputy chief constable who is a top candidate. Other officers, though talented, prefer the quiet life in a county force and shun urban service. They may not necessarily lose financially — the Norfolk job, with 1,338 officers, offers a salary and perks totalling £57,000 a year against the £59,000 on offer to the man who takes command of 6,664 officers in the West Midlands.

The authority may pitch its advertisement wrongly. West Midlands, for example, may have set too high a standard by originally seeking officers of chief constable rank. It has now opened applications to officers such as deputy chief constables and assistant chief constables.

The applicants are screened by the authority, which sends

a shortlist to the Home Office. Legally, the Home Secretary has no role in the selection process other than to approve or disapprove the selected candidate. In reality, the Chief Inspector of Constabulary and senior civil servants scrutinize the applicants and the authority is given a pecking order.

At the top of the list are the candidates or candidate the Home Secretary would be "pleased to approve"; they are followed by those he simply "would approve", then by those of whom he would not approve. Home Office officials may also steer officers to apply for certain jobs.

The local authorities believe this system removes choice and argue that the Home Office should keep its distance. Senior officers believe the police authorities need guidance and perhaps more help.

One senior officer spoke of a

"lottery", in which the final selection may be done by a special committee, a handful of authority members, or with the entire authority questioning each of the shortlisted candidates for 30 minutes or more. In Norfolk, some of the top deputy chief constables in the country were turned down last year.

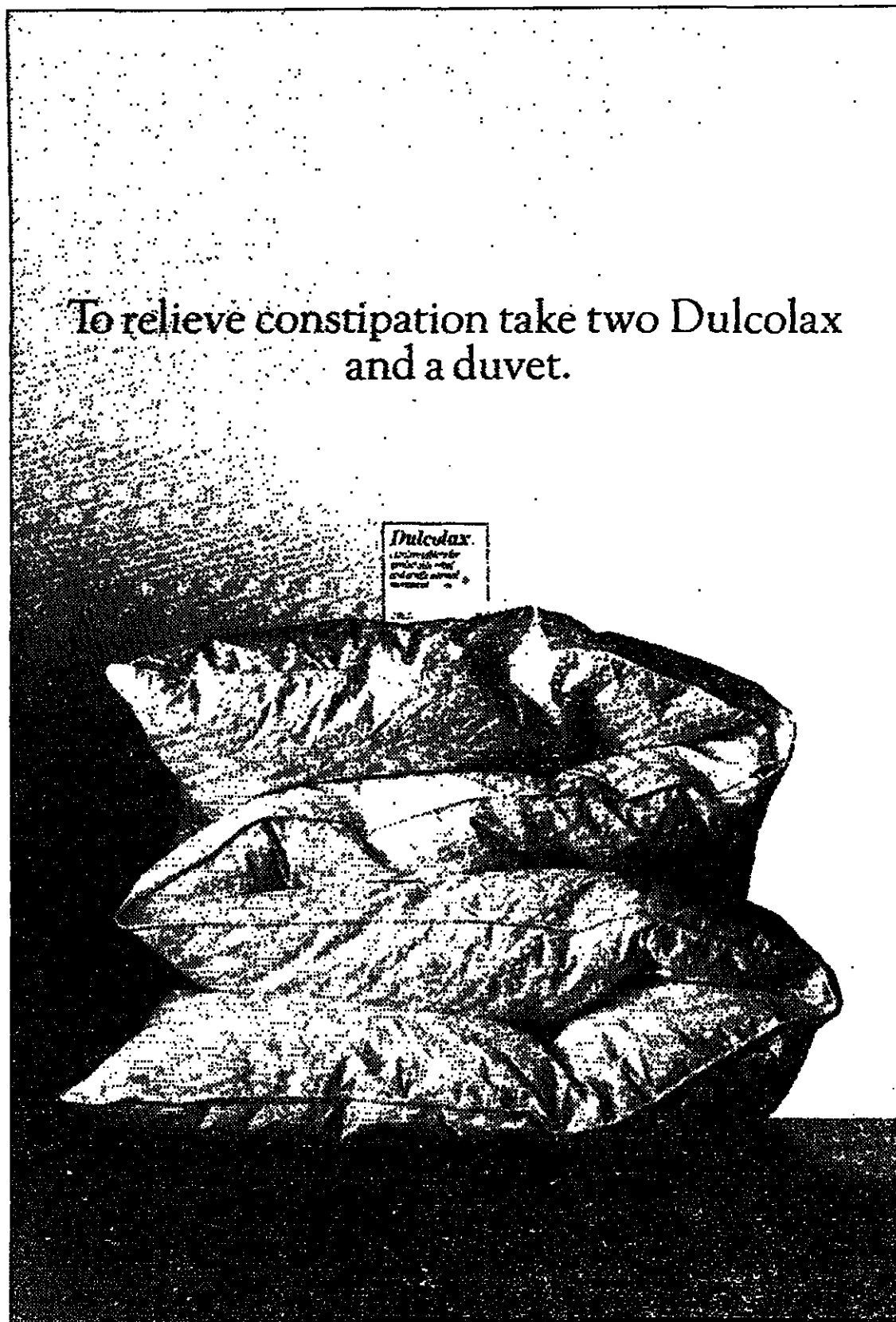
Better by far, according to one officer, was the system used to choose the Royal Ulster Constabulary's chief constable last year, when authority officials and members canvassed opinions widely about each candidate. The final choice was then made after lengthy interviews.

Last year, the Select Committee on Home Affairs suggested taking even more of the selection system from the police authorities by placing top officers in a pool under Home Office auspices so careers had more central direction.

The police talk of a halfway house, suggesting that instead of open competition, the Home Office should openly give authorities a list of candidates from which to choose. Officers could be placed on a list of seniority and might be offered promotion as they came to the top of the list. If they did not take up the job, they would move down the list.

Stewart Tendler

To relieve constipation take two Dulcolax and a duvet.



It takes only two tiny Dulcolax tablets at bedtime to relieve constipation effectively and give a natural movement the following morning. While you sleep, Dulcolax gently coaxes your system back into shape and works predictably to end the discomfort of constipation.

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Walk on the ruined wild side

One of the most captivating programmes on Radio 4 involves two people walking in the country, exclaiming with delight whenever they spot a pied flycatcher or a wild daffodil or an ancient copper beech. It is particularly nice to listen to when stuck on the M25. It reminds you of what a walk in the countryside is really like.

Or does it? Perhaps it reminds you instead of what people who are stuck on the M25 like to think a walk in the countryside is really like. I have been staying this week in the countryside of Wiltshire with a friend of mine, Mr Wood, who is a devout member of all sorts of countryside organizations, including Freedom to Roam, the Society for the Preservation of Rural Hedgerows, and many more. I was looking forward to a bracing walk with him on the Wiltshire Downs, ready to delight in him pointing out to me the little furry animals, the medieval shrubs, the glorious hill formations, the twittering bird life.

We set off at a cracking pace, and our boots had only just hit mud when Mr Wood pointed up into the air and exclaimed: "Look at that!" With a thrill in my heart, I looked up, hoping to see an arrow of geese winging its way towards the horizon. "Bloody hang-gliders!" he said. "Ruining the countryside."

I watched as the hang-glider swooped and dived above us, and was about to suggest that it had a certain elegance and excitement all of its own when Mr Wood was again distracted. "Can you believe it?" he said. Would this, I wondered, be a long-hoped-for bobtailed caterpillar? No. He was pointing out a large vehicle in the distance spraying something or other from what looked like its wings.

"Absolute disgrace," said Mr Wood. "Farm machinery gets bigger all the time, and those pesticides are ruining the environment."

We trudged on, up and up, through a beautiful wood where snowdrops in their thousands were beginning to bloom. "Just look at that! Just look at it!" said Mr Wood. I followed the line of his finger. I saw a couple of blackbirds on the branch of an old tree, and I wondered whether I should be looking at the blackbirds or at the tree. "No! No!" Mr Wood said. "In the distance — yes,

there! They should be ashamed of themselves!" I peered harder.

Through a tiny crack in the trees, I could see, miles away in the furthest distance, a caravan parked by the side of a road. "Caravans are ruining our countryside, ruining it," said Mr Wood.

To cheer him up, I told him the funny, true story of a friend of mine from Scotland, who, having been lent a caravan, rang up a duke of his acquaintance to ask him whether he could park for a couple of nights on his land. The telephone was answered by the butler, who said that the duke was out. My friend then explained his request to the butler, and asked if he could pass it on. "I wonder if you are aware, sir," replied the butler, "that his grace is this year's president of the Anti-Caravanners' Association?"

Mr Wood did not seem to see the funny side of my amusing anecdote. "You don't have an address for the Anti-Caravanners' Association? I'd like to join," he said. By this time we had

emerged from the pretty wood, and we were now on the top of the downs, overlooking acres and acres of beautifully smooth fields stretching as far as the eye could see.

"Wouldn't have been like that in the old days," he said. "No," I replied, "a lot less neat and tidy, I suppose." But that was not what he had meant at all. He was making a point, he continued, against the ruthless cutting-down of hedgerows that has taken place in recent years.

Before the walk had ended, Mr Wood had pointed out many of the local landmarks that consume his interest. While we were crossing a 16th-century bridge over a blue-green stream, he sounded off against a small crop of Christmas trees that had been planted somewhere in the distance, and then as we were taking a breather on the top of a hill he drew my attention to a tiny outcrop of trees, far, far away, and told me what a disgrace it was that a number of fridges had been dumped there.

And so ended our walk. It had seemed rather different to the country walks on Radio 4, in which the two walkers become excited about all that the countryside has to offer, and can identify at a 100 yards, whatever arouses their interest. But, then again, perhaps it was not so very different.



CRAIG BROWN

هكذا من الاطباء

CUS

'They complemented perfectly — they were like a monster with two heads'

seen there revealed as participants in the trial would, it was feared, become immediate targets for the Securitate forces. Yet Teodorescu, who has refused to identify any other participants in the trial, proclaims he is nothing to fear. 'I was free ahead,' he insists.

Teodorescu had less cause to hate the Ceausescus than most Romanians. He admits that he yet retained some of the independence that the bulk of the population once enjoyed. In his office he had a huge packet of his cigarettes stood on his cabinet — the ubiquitous black mini cigarettes.

Yet, he says, 'When I saw the dead, as a lawyer I didn't let anything at all. But as a citizen I like everybody, rejected. It was the most beautiful Christmas in my whole life.'

Two days later, as he is recovering painfully from his bullet wound, Teodorescu is told that his 19-year-old son has been killed. An army conscript who had just begun his national service, he had fallen in action against Securitate gunmen five days before the Ceausescu trial.

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But would Teodorescu accept?

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At first sight it's changed not a jot. But just wait until you put your foot down.

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The fascia's covered with burr walnut; the seats, which adjust eight different ways, in Connolly leather. But to really appreciate the Range Rover you have to drive one yourself.

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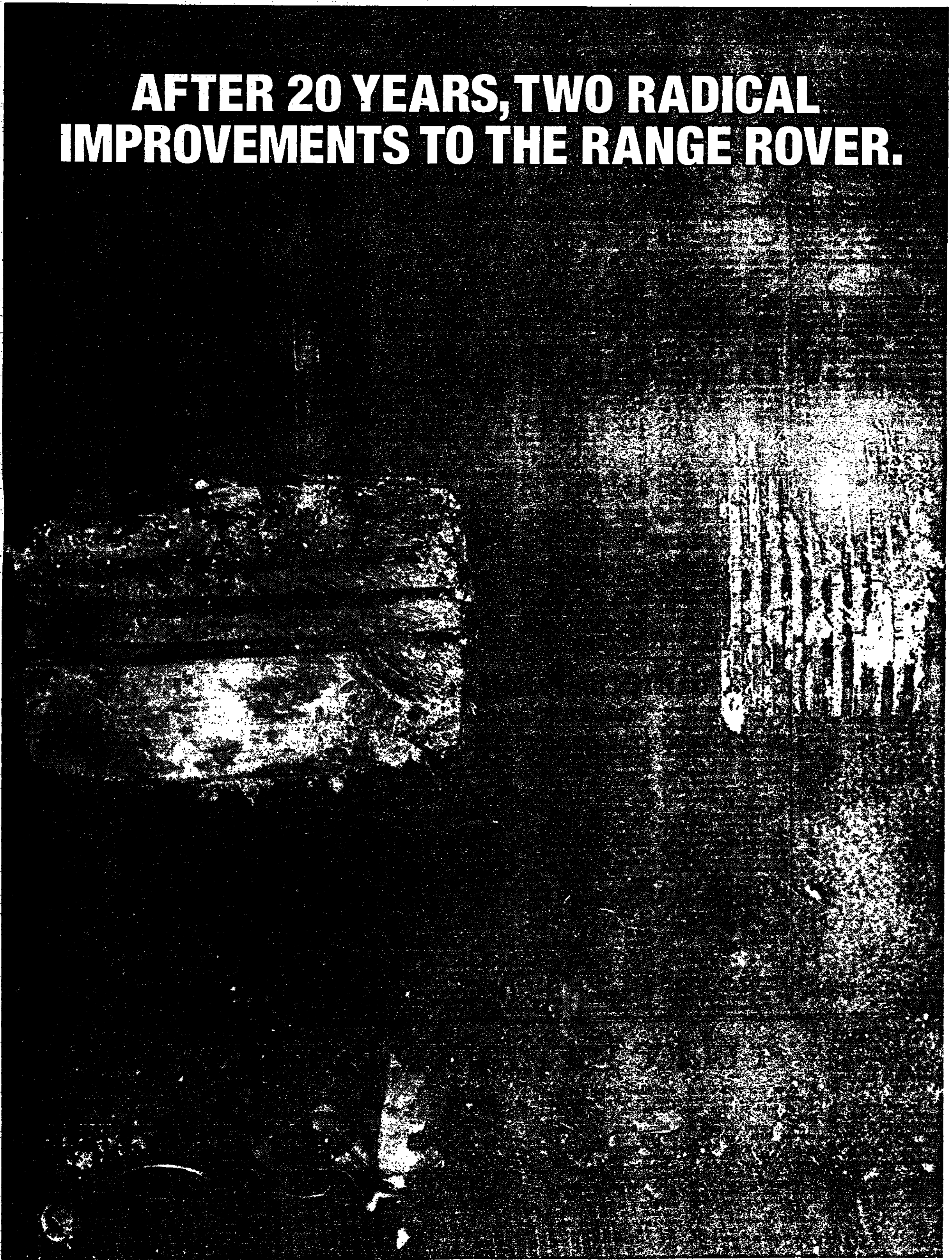
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TIMES DIARY

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

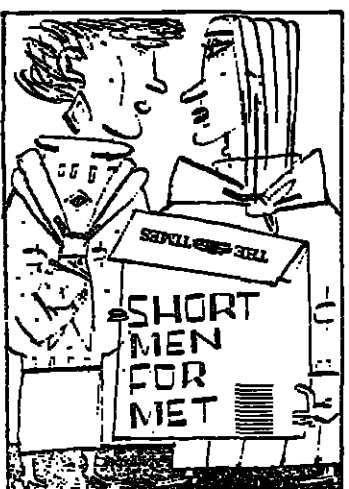
The Prime Minister has suddenly gone very quiet. I don't mean she has become less forthright and outspoken; simply that the Speaker has complained twice now that MPs cannot hear what she is saying during question time. As a result, the microphone above her customary place has been repositioned and the select committee which oversees MPTV is conducting an inquiry. The obvious answer, that the hearing problem is a result of rowdiness, has been rejected. More likely, I am sorry to report, is that Mrs Thatcher herself is to blame. It is said that she no longer leans over the despatch box because it gives the television cameras an unflattering view of the top of her head. Instead, she now turns sharply to the right to answer questions, allowing the camera in the centre of the chamber to capture a more flattering profile. It is also thought that she has lowered her voice deliberately to avoid giving the impression that she is lecturing.

Last week, you may recall, I wondered whether the Scottish Labour MP Ron Brown had paid his poll tax, which became due north of the border last April. The answer, I can now reveal, is that he definitely has not, and has no intention of paying. I have that on the word of his remarkably cheerful wife, May. She added, with a laugh: "We haven't got any money left to pay now even if we wanted to." So was Ron planning another court appearance after his "moral victory" at Brighton? May says they are expecting the sheriff with a warrant "any day".

Does the Prime Minister have any plans to visit Bournemouth during 1990, David Atkinson, the Bournemouth East MP, asked yesterday. Back came the standard reply: "I have at present no plans to do so." Downing Street has slipped. This year, abandoning the Blackpool-Brighton monopoly, the Tories are holding their annual conference in - yes, Bournemouth.

Early day Commons motions numbers 346 and 347, tabled by Liberal Democrat MPs Kennedy, Kirkwood, Bruce and others, congratulate respectively local party workers in Kincardine and Decide on their campaign over heating allowances for the elderly, and Lib Dems in Brentwood and Ongar on their survey of local doctors' opposition to the health service review. Nothing exceptional about that except that the two constituencies are held respectively by Alick Buchanan-Smith and Robert McCrindle, who, because of serious illness, are widely believed to have been two of the three Conservative MPs who failed to vote in the Tory leadership election. Bad taste or mere coincidence?

BARRY FANTONI



"Neville was just saying it was time for platform heels to make a comeback"

David Hunt, who as environment minister wound up the Commons debate on the poll tax last week, made a tremendous impression on both sides of the House. He sat through the entire six-hour debate without once leaving his seat and then spoke in reply for half an hour without notes. Hunt is very modest about his achievements, but it is hard to hear him speak without feeling that he has something of a reputation as a crack debater. He won the Observer Mace debating award in 1967 and as a result was invited on a debating tour of the United States, where he was given five minutes' warning of his subject. After Chris Patten, the Secretary of State, had told him on Thursday morning that he intended to open the debate without notes, Hunt could hardly refuse the challenge.

The appointment of Dr Julian Lewis as deputy director should enliven the Conservative Research Department. It was Lewis who infiltrated Newham North East constituency Labour party in 1975 to help the then Labour MP, Reg Prentice, in his fight against the Trotskyists trying to unseat him. Prentice subsequently followed Lewis into the Conservative Party. Lewis has since been involved in a series of colourful anti-CND stunts and should bring - how can I put this diplomatically? - flair and originality to Tory tactics in the run-up to the next general election.

High on the wall of the cavernous bar in the ADC Theatre in Cambridge, there used to hang a mug-shot of the inscrutable Sir Peter Hall. An inscription underneath read: "To the ADC. Thanks for allowing me to make all my mistakes."

When I was an undergraduate, we looked on this dictum with gratitude and respect and went off and made mistakes all over the shop. My favourite was *Kamikaze*, a blank verse tragedy in papier mâché masks, climaxing in a mimed disembowelling to hollow knocks and tinkles. Opinion was divided as to whether it was a haunting masterpiece or a nightmarish bore, though not divided very far, because only three people came to see it, and one walked out after ten minutes. He did return - for his newspaper - and so walked out twice.

This was too much. As director,

it was my duty to chase him downstairs and look cross. "But it was an awful play," he said apologetically. Like Sheridan Morley, he missed the point of undergraduate theatre entirely. On Friday, Stephen Sondheim started lecturing at Oxford. "For those of us who spent most of our Oxford undergraduate careers campaigning futilely for a department of drama," wrote Mr Morley on this page, "this is great news." Well, for those of us who spent most of our undergraduate years directing, writing and appearing in undergraduate monstrosities, it is calamitous news. The ADC - the rough equivalent of OUDS, though a more

distinguished and better-smelling institution - is the semi-official undergraduate theatre of Cambridge. It is run by undergraduates, sometimes passably, rarely efficiently, but usually in the proper immature, selfish, ad hoc manner. It causes misery to the unfortunate don appointed to oversee its finances. In my day, this don could look but not touch. There was no official professor to reject crackpot ideas: no retired old has-been with an axe to grind; not even a world-class genius in whose thrall everybody stood. If the 20-year-old, self-important, over-dressed president refused to allow you to put on your mould-breaking

George Brock sees the German issue as a spur to decision

Thatcher's Euro paralysis

In a governmental system now well-tuned to the smallest signals from Downing Street, Mrs Thatcher's indifference to Europe still creates the administrative equivalent of planning blight in Whitehall. When there is no enthusiasm at the top, it is hard for ministers or departments to create strategies for long-term goals in Europe, such as placing more Britons in the European Commission at the lower, policy-making levels.

Into this muddle came the prospect of the reunification of Germany. In public, Mrs Thatcher has confined herself to accepting the grudging, identical wording of the Nato and EC communiqués, and to hoping that reunification is 10 or 15 years away. In private, she is expressing a vehement antipathy to reunification.

This antipathy makes the Government's dilemma over framing a European policy still harder. Our European partners, led by France, take the view that

speaking more of indecision than of a clear plan of opposition. Her Bruges speech in the autumn of 1988 was not followed up; rather, in speeches last year, John Major and Douglas Hurd went as far as Cabinet ministers can towards cancelling the message of Bruges without actually disowning the Prime Minister's pronouncements. This kinder and gentler tone when speaking of Europe became more noticeable after the Conservatives took a hammering in the European Parliament elections last June. Coached by Hurd, Mrs Thatcher sang harmoniously in the community chorus at the Strasbourg summit last month.

The new line may fall short of the enthusiasm which some would like the Government to show for Europe, but it is nevertheless a striking change. For the Prime Minister, it is not so much a change of direction as a slippage into neutral. The policy-making engine is idling.

endorsing the right of Germans to end the division of their country.

The German question cannot be disentangled from questions about the future of Nato or the EC. The restating of the German question means that Britain must revise its thinking about both organizations. It is no longer enough to say that Nato should keep up its guard until real changes have been agreed, or that the completion of the 1992 programme must be the EC's priority. Neither of these stances - sensible enough before last year - solves the bigger problems posed by events in East and West Germany.

Mrs Thatcher is trapped on three sides: by pragmatic caution on European integration, by deep suspicion of Germany, and by the absence of restraints upon the right of Germans to decide their own future.

So it is hardly surprising that neither the Prime Minister nor the Foreign Secretary has said much about these key issues. Meanwhile, debate rages elsewhere about the blueprints and principles on which a "new European architecture" can be built. At the moment, it seems, the British government can neither move backwards nor forwards.

Peter Stothard analyses the American research that puts numbers to the names

From politician to public figure

Washington

Come in, Mr Congressman, your number is up. This is the time of year when every Washington feud becomes a number and each political opinion is expressed as a percentage.

The lobbyists of the US capital - all 5,679 of them - are preparing for the new legislative session by counting up the voting scorecards of the last. The results will reduce even the most rounded Renaissance man to a series of digits: a 70 per cent conservative, a 90 per cent liberal, a Green zero, a 40 per cent friend of American gays.

This is mid-term election year, when every member of the House of Representatives, a third of the Senate, and 36 state governors face the voters. The new season's political numbers will be used by campaigners and fund-raisers to protect their friends and to identify their enemies. With old electoral verdicts such as anti-communism on the way out, and no major new movements taking their place, the computer printouts are crucial. For single-issue lobbyists, each armed with a report card on every lawmaker, this is the open season.

Top of many lists are the elections in fast-growing California, the governorship of which is by far the most important poll of 1990. The winner has rights over redrawing the electoral boundaries for the new congressional seats that will be created after the 1990 census. This power could give the Democrats control of Congress for a decade.

Republican Senator Pete Wilson, who is attempting to win

this crucial Californian race for President Bush, will face fierce statistical scrutiny of his stands on abortion, the environment, gay rights and the oil and gas industry. "Lust" will play a part - in this instance the word serving as an acronym for a leaking underground storage tank - a key item in a recent conservation amendment which is worth several points in the environmentalists' reckoning. As opposing computers crunch their way through his Senate votes, Wilson may find it hard to remember that he is human.

In this year's congressional contest in California, the wine-growers of Napa Valley regard Wally Herger, who is seeking reelection, as a devout Mormon who has done little in Washington except struggle to open the Japanese food market to his constituents' produce. But to the lobbyists' computers, the member for the Second District is 12.100.13.100.63.17.14.0.0, a numerical code which, they think, encapsulates the man better than any words.

The first number, 12, is Herger's rating by Americans for Democratic Action, doyen of the counting groups, which has been dishing dirt about the right since the days of Joseph McCarthy. The second number, 100, is his flawless percentage score from the US Chamber of Commerce. When it comes to befriending big business, Herger scores like Nadia Comaneci. He also rates a perfect 100 from the American Conservative Union, promoters of "traditional moral values and a strong national defence".

The figure 13 represents the

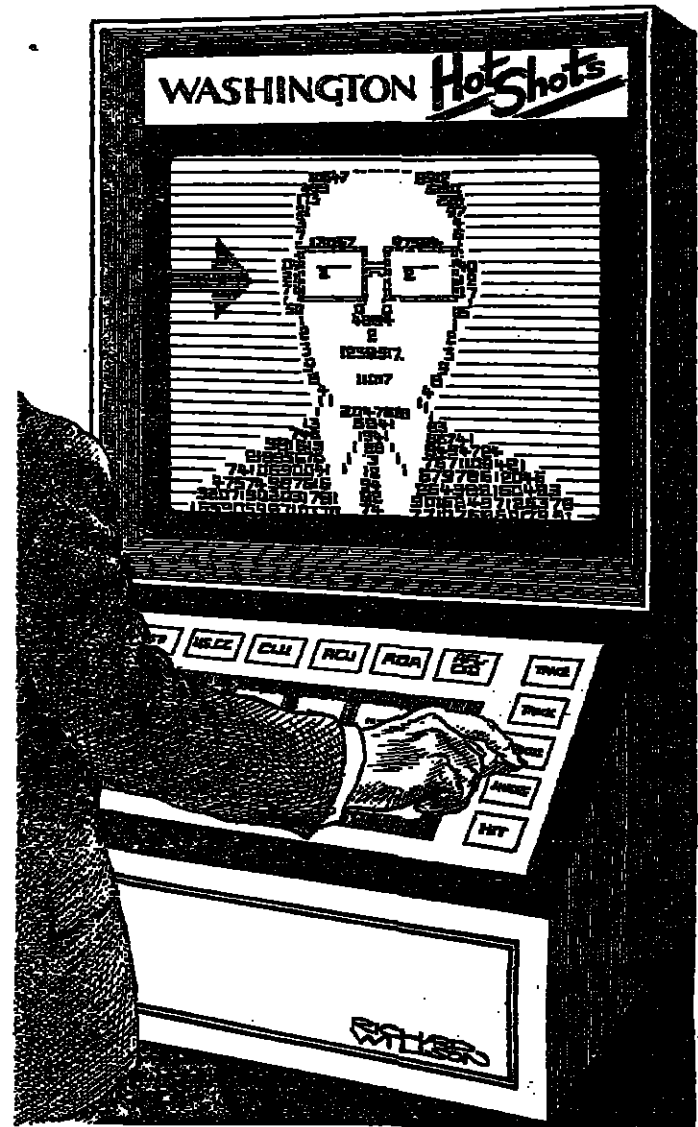
grudge of the AFL-CIO, the main US lobbyists for organized labour. Last year Herger was given 17 per cent by the American Civil Liberties Union, 14 per cent by the Consumer Federation, and 63 per cent by the National Taxpayers' Union. Environmental and pensioners' groups awarded him the "big zeros".

The resulting strings of numbers - and this is just one statistical profile - will soon be updated and crunched together to see if Representative 12.100.13.100.63.17.14.0.0 is a suitable target for ousting.

Wally Herger has the right code for the conservative sierras of Sacramento and is probably safe enough. He is like a tame British backbencher, a class whose blind loyalty to the whips has prevented analysis like this spreading to Westminster. He has angered few people except those he need not fear.

For others, the 100s and the zeros are more of a problem. The Ohio Democratic senator Howard Metzenbaum is proud of his liberal voting record, but has protested about the perfect 100 given to him by the ADA. Like many liberal Democrats, he is a good deal to the left of his constituents, but he would prefer to keep this quiet at home.

The politicians with best reason to fear the numbers game are newcomers to national politics. Those who have not yet made themselves invulnerable by means of massive campaign war-chests must aim to stay off the



hit-list of any active lobby.

For example, the League of Conservation Voters, an environmental group, is likely to provide cash for a candidate about whom it knows virtually nothing if he or she is standing against one of the group's "bad apples". So will the so-called pro-life and pro-choice organizations which are carving up the nation over the issue of abortion.

American elections are decisively swayed by the power of

money. Even the most powerful lobby groups have to be careful not to waste resources. And so keeping one's numerical codes out of an enemy's target range is a good way to stay in power.

Because the numbers ignore all political activities apart from voting, a congressman who works hard on a legislative measure and misses a few voting opportunities can find himself easily misread. It is a dangerous trap.

Presidents do not cast votes, but of course they are not immune from assessment. George Bush was recently redefined by a conservative think-tank as Mr D.C.B.B. On the same range of issues, Vice-President Dan Quayle was a more attractive Mr A.A.A.A.

Any number of tricks can be played with these political numbers as, for instance, when annual scores are added together to show alleged trends.

Why are Americans so keen on the numbers game? Some commentators claim that it is precisely because it is a game. Just as televised American football is made up of "15-second bites of action" followed by 50-minute bouts of statistics, so politics, it is said, fits the same yearning to make order out of chaos.

Other analysts point to the way US policy in Vietnam was destroyed by the Defence Department's preference for counting bombs to conducting strategy; to automobile companies that are happier counting new resources than managing their workers more imaginatively; even to *Washington Post* journalists who watch for the weekly charts of how often their names have appeared on the front page.

The historian Daniel Boorstin once described 19th-century America as made up of "statistical communities". The creation of such a large democracy, he said, encouraged the use of numbers as abstract tools for decision-makers. The idea of the statistically average man helped bring about everything from the spread of life insurance to the mass production of standard-sized clothes.

But the statistical basis for evaluating Representative Herger and his colleagues would not have impressed the politicians of a century ago. Then, a "machine politician" was a metaphor, not a reality. In those days, the big figures kept the little figures in their place.

Hardliners living in fear of the domino effect

Michael Williams reports on pressures for Communist reform in Asia

Several thousand Mongolians braved the bitter cold and a ban on demonstrations on Sunday to attend a rally in the capital, Ulan Bator, called by the newly formed Mongolian Democratic Union. As in previous MDU demonstrations, there were demands for an end to the Communist Party's monopoly of power and multi-party elections.

The Mongolian authorities - who have always taken a political lead from the Soviet Union rather than China - have since said they are willing to open a dialogue with the opposition. This declaration can only further isolate China and the two other hardline communist regimes in East Asia - Vietnam and North Korea - and underline to their aged leaders that the pressure for the radical overhaul of communist systems is not confined to Eastern Europe.

There is little doubt that June 4, 1989, will long be regarded as a landmark in the history of communism. On the streets of Peking, China's infant democracy movement was drowned in blood by the People's Liberation

Army. On the same day in Poland, the people voted in the first democratic election to be held in a communist country. The symmetry of the two events made clear the gap that had appeared between East European reformism and the naked authoritarianism of the East Asian communist regimes.

Contemplating the parting of the ways between East European and East Asian communism, it is too easy to see a triumph of European democratic ideals over Asian despotism. The powerful example of neighbouring Western Europe, dissident movements and, in some cases, democratic traditions pre-dating the Second World War have all been important in Eastern Europe; but above all it was Mr Gorbachev's dissolution of the Soviet hegemony over Eastern Europe that led to the sudden collapse of communist regimes that had been in place for four decades.

While the historical and political experience of East Asian

communism is very different, the regimes in Peking, Pyongyang and Hanoi cannot seal themselves off. All three had close ties with Eastern Europe stretching back decades, and there is little doubt that the impact of events in Eastern Europe has not been lost on the urban populations of China and Vietnam at least.

In all three countries, panic measures have been introduced to try to keep the spectre of revolution at bay. North Korea has withdrawn all its students from Czechoslovakia. Vietnam is reported to have stopped sending social science students to Eastern Europe and to have cancelled several exchanges. In China, renewed jamming of the BBC's Chinese language service in October appeared to be directly linked to the downfall of Erich Honecker in East Germany, an event which caught Peking completely off-guard.

After the bloody suppression of the democracy movement last summer, China's leaders tried to

close ranks with East Germany and Romania. Within a week of the events in Tiananmen Square, the Chinese foreign minister, Qian Qichen, was in East Berlin to thank Erich Honecker for East Germany's "internationalist stance in supporting the crushing of the counter-revolutionary rebellion". At the celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Chinese People's Republic in October, the most senior foreign guest was the hapless Egon Krenz: eloquent testimony to the international isolation that Peking's hardline leaders have brought on their country.

The overthrow of the Ceausescu regime in Romania was an even more humiliating experience for China's leaders, coming as it did only weeks after the country's internal security supremo, Qiao Guo, had visited Bucharest to align China with Eastern Europe's only remaining hardline regime. The Chinese media, unable to explain the loss of old comrades such as Honecker and Ceausescu, has

scarcely commented on events in Eastern Europe.

For Vietnam and North Korea, the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe is even more threatening. These states are highly vulnerable economically and politically, if only because of their dependence on the Soviet Union. There are already indications that Moscow - their major creditor, economic partner and military supplier - is reducing its economic assistance to both countries. Moreover, while North Korea is not so desperately poor as Vietnam, the Soviet Union's growing ties with South Korea threaten in the long run to undermine the North, where the regime, like those in Eastern Europe, came to power on the back of the Soviet army at the end of the Second World War.

Vietnam, like China, has tried to ignore one of Marxism's basic precepts, the link between the economic and political systems, by continuing to accept economic reform while steadfastly

rejecting political reform. The last meeting of the Vietnamese Communist Party's central committee, in August, firmly turned its back on any move towards political pluralism or diminution of the party's monopoly of power.

At first glance, the prospects for dramatic political change in any of the East Asian communist states, Mongolia excepted, look remote; but the same might have been said of East Germany or Romania a few months ago. The party in all three countries now fears the domino effect. In each, the death of a key leader could trigger change.

In China, Deng Xiaoping and Yang Shangkun are in their eighties, while Kim Il Sung in North Korea and Nguyen Van Linh in Vietnam are both well into their seventies. Linh and Deng are known to be in poor health. The death of one of these leaders is likely to spark a power struggle leading to major concessions to the presently silenced demands for change.

The author is senior commentator of the BBC Far Eastern Service.

A place for drama's lost causes



GRIFF
RHYS JONES

production of *The Bald Prima Donna*, you went to The Mummies, the Independent Theatre Group or, in one memorable case, your mother.

So two years later, you were

president yourself, practising your sneer at *The Bald Prima Donna* and frightening the senior treasurer with plans for a world tour of *Sweeney Todd*. It was all very educative.

On Monday, Mr Morley quoted Sondheim, apropos the lack of Oxford undergraduates in his classes: "We did indeed invite current undergraduates to submit tapes of their work, but... none reached a very high standard of promise." My goodness, he should have seen the production of *The Alchemist* produced by the undergraduate Declan Donnellan (now of Cheek by Jowl). The set consisted of two pictures the size of dinner plates, hung on an acre

of black drapes. It was promise-free.

Would a drama department have let Nick Hytner invade the Corn Exchange for his production of *Mahagonny*, with 40 tons of scaffolding and 30 tons of semi-naked Newham girls? Would a professor have let Stephen Poliakoff mount inaudible readings of his pieces in a cellar in King's? The most important contribution of the university establishment to all this glittering precocity was utter indifference.

I salute Stephen Sondheim. His ruminations must be fascinating (does he sing them?), but Oxford theatricals should remember that it is not compulsory to attend

lectures. Another one missed gives more time for bad productions in dank basements.

It doesn't matter if Stephen Sondheim is too busy to see them. It doesn't matter if the only undergraduates he meets are the ones with long essays and warm relationships with their tutors. They only become drama critics anyway. But let us have no more talk of drama departments. Future Peter Halls, Richard Eyres, Nicholas Hytner, Jonathan Miller - and from Oxford, or Patrick Garland - might seek extra-curricular fun in hill-walking instead. Luckily, this is not the boat race. Where Oxford leads, Cambridge need not follow. If Cameron Mackintosh, whose largesse is financing the Sondheim professorship, offers to cough up in an easterly direction, I suggest a nice new bar for the ADC theatre.

هذا من الاصل



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

EUROPEAN SHADES OF BLUE

Mrs Thatcher will today have an encounter with the Conservative Party's Euro-MPs. It is not too soon. There is much at issue between them but the heart of the matter is this — to the Euro-Tories belong to the as Mrs Thatcher and the Conservative MPs at Westminster? If British sovereignty and national accountability are the criteria, it too often seems that the answer is hardly at all.

That is not a covert way of suggesting that the Euro-MPs should conform to all of Mrs Thatcher's views on a common currency, a central bank, and political integration. After all, not all Westminster MPs agree with her on all these matters. But it is to say that the Euro-Conservatives should, like their Westminster colleagues, provide some reasonable reflection of the shades of opinion which go to make the consensus of Conservative opinion in Britain. It is only too clear that they do not.

Among Conservatives at Westminster, there is a broad spectrum of opinion on Europe. It ranges from the position of Mr Edward Heath and his supporters, who see no difficulty in submerging British parliamentary sovereignty beneath the authority of "Europe", and those who are hostile to every aspect of integration. Between those extremes, however, lie many shades of opinion providing the pivot on which there balances the Tory consensus. This is that the Community should move as fast as possible towards a single market, should consult as deeply and widely as feasible on matters of political concern but should remain a union of sovereign nation states, even though that sovereignty can be pooled for agreed and limited purposes.

That is clearly not the consensus of the Strasbourg MEPs. They have been consistently sceptical of the critique to which the Prime Minister has subjected the political implications of a European single currency and central bank. They dislike the Government's resistance to the so-called social charter. They do not appear to see dangers in the kind of *de facto* political integration which would transfer sovereignty from the Westminster Parliament to Europe.

Why is there such a marked gap? Some responsibility no doubt rests with the Prime Minister herself; she could have taken more trouble to persuade them to a different outlook sooner. Instead, she has tended to treat the

Conservative contingent at Strasbourg as peripheral — as, in strict terms of their comparative power, they are.

Similarly, the European elections have been treated simply as an opportunity for voters to comment on the Government's performance and to make a protest without risk — as they did in last year's Euro-elections. The important questions about European integration which were already at issue were not highlighted, though the manifesto, to which the MEPs subscribed, did make clear the official Conservative position on sovereignty.

The Conservative Party has few genuine Euro-fanatics, but since the days of Mr Heath, Tories standing for the European Parliament have tended to be of a committed European persuasion. They are candidates lured not by real power (there has been none) but by an almost mystical vision of a united Europe — indifferent to ways and means and disinclined to contemplate the dangerous consequences that could flow from a popular feeling that the national interest was being disregarded.

Some have been people who have failed to get Tory seats at home; others have risen to prominence as representatives of particular interests or in the European movement. None is constrained by the kind of political realities which operate on a Westminster MP — the need to sustain a government in office while bringing influence to bear on its acts and legislation and heeding the views of constituents. (How many electors know their MEP's name?) The position of Tory MEPs has always been more free-standing than that of Labour MEPs. Labour early on got the habit of sending to Brussels those who reflected the party's (then) anti-Europeanism.

In the interests of practical politics, Mrs Thatcher now needs to build more effective bridges of communication with her MEPs. The Tory Party would also be well advised to reflect on the way candidates for Strasbourg are selected. That does not mean interfering with the free choice of constituency parties. But it should mean encouraging selection habits which ensure that local parties understand their candidates' position on the future of Europe and sovereignty. It makes no sense for the Conservative Party to sponsor MEPs who take positions contrary to what the majority of their party's supporters actually want.

REALIGNMENT IN SEOUL

The merger between President Roh Tae Woo's Democratic Justice Party and the two smaller of South Korea's three opposition parties begins a new phase in the country's transition from dictatorship to democracy. Because the new Democratic Liberal Party will have a two-thirds majority in the National Assembly, where the Government has been in a minority since the 1988 elections, the political stakes — and the ruling party's policies — should now become clearer.

That would be a gain. Volatile shifts in political allegiances have plagued South Korean politics for the past three years; concentration on tactical manoeuvring within and between all four parties has delayed efforts to work out coherent political platforms. If the new party uses its majority to change from the existing presidential system to a form of cabinet government, as it has promised, democracy could be strengthened by becoming less dependent on the personality of the President.

The deal has, for all that, a distinctly undemocratic aura to it. South Korean politics since 1987 has been based on a delicate balancing act, in which the strength of the three opposition parties in the National Assembly has mitigated popular distrust of the Democratic Justice Party's links with the dictatorial past. Despite the divided state of the political opposition, in 1988 South Koreans gave them a combined majority in the National Assembly, a convincing display of their determination to keep the ruling party in check.

The compact between President Roh, Mr Kim Young Sam and the leader of the smallest, conservative party of Mr Kim Jong Pil, in effect annuls the electors' verdict. Its attraction for the two opposition leaders was that it

would marginalize Mr Kim Dae Jung, whose Party for Peace and Democracy has more seats than either of theirs, and who was considered a strong contender for the 1992 presidential elections. Not surprisingly, he has denounced the deal as a coup against democracy and vowed to collect 10 million signatures for a petition demanding fresh elections.

The public justification for the merger, in a country where political statements should not be taken too literally, is the need to lessen factional confrontation. Its supporters contend that South Korea was ripe for the development of a party structure divided on ideological lines, between conservatives and "progressives" — the label attached to Mr Kim Dae Jung's party. The parallels with Japan's Liberal Democratic Party are striking. Like the LDP, the different factions in the new South Korean alliance seem to be united less by ideology than by the attractions of acquiring a firm grip on power.

President Roh has so far shown himself to be a genuine reformer. He has also demonstrated considerable skill in working with the opposition's majority in Parliament to outflank some of the hardliners in his own party. He claims that the new party's parliamentary strength will help him to tackle more decisively the current mild retrenchment in the country's economy, and the diplomatic challenge of reunification with the North.

A less charitable interpretation is that it reinforces Mr Roh's hand for this summer's local elections, in which the Democratic Justice Party was expected to fare badly. Unless he can convince South Koreans that their new-found liberties have not been eroded by those they elected in 1988, the merger could yet prove a miscalculation.

DOCTOR MENEM'S PRESCRIPTION

"Surgery without anaesthetic" is what President Carlos Menem prescribed for the public sector of Argentina's sick economy when he came to power last summer. Three finance ministers (one died) and four different economic programmes have been applied to the task within six months. The third chairman of the Central Bank resigned this week after only 30 days in the hot seat — six days longer than his predecessor lasted. But the knife so far wielded by Señor Menem and his band of latter-day Peronists in Buenos Aires has never looked sharp enough.

On triumphantly entering office last July, for instance, the Menem Administration raised prices charged to consumers by state industries. The aim was to cut the budget deficit and force inflation down to zero by December. Inflation did indeed start coming down — to around 6.5 per cent (a month) by November, but while government revenue has been raised, too little was done to reduce public spending. So the budget deficit remained, with more money being printed to fill the Austral gap. Inflation meanwhile started to climb again, raising last year's total to around 5,000 per cent. Supermarkets kept customers informed over loudspeakers of the latest round of rises as they shopped.

Last year saw the Austral slide from a rate of 14 to the dollar to one of about 2,000 while real incomes collapsed by a frightening 60 per cent. Middle-class Argentines who are fearful for their savings have scrambled to exchange their Australs for real live dollars.

Señor Antonio Erman Gonzalez, an old crony of President Menem's who took over as economics minister last month, has tried to impose stringent controls on the Austral in an

effort to raise its rate against the dollar. At the same time he replaced the seven-day savings deposits which people had been buying as a further hedge against inflation with 10-year dollar bonds.

He has had some success. The public debt has started to come down and so has the rate of inflation. The dollar value of the Austral has improved. But private debt, notably that owned by private industry to the banks, remains worrying. It was partly his failure to find a solution to this problem that led to the latest bank chairman's resignation. The truth is that despite the Government's professed intentions it has not yet approached the underlying cause of the national malaise. Corruption in the public sector is still rife and so is overmanning in state industries. The huge state-owned gas, electricity, and oil companies whose annual losses have run into hundreds of millions of dollars are to be merged — and are expected to be privatized in due course.

The pace of this shift from public ownership remains slow, however, despite Señor Menem's commitment to the task. The indications are that the Government remains a hostage to the big unions within the Peronist movement. Their opposition to redundancies is tying Señor Menem's hands. When a large number of railway workers recently lost their jobs, they were simply transferred to the national tax department — which had not been conspicuously under-staffed.

President Menem said at the outset that it was his objective to make the Argentine economy "get up and walk" — a remark which evoked comparisons with Lazarus. A robust belief in the possibility of economic miracles may not in itself be enough.

Search for stability in Europe

From Sir John Killick
Sir, The debate about President Gorbachev and the future of Europe in your articles and letters is long overdue and will I hope continue. So far it has been longer on analysis than on specific proposals for the future. I find myself in substantial agreement with "27" (article, January 11) and Sir Reginald Hibbert (letter, January 15) as regards Gorbachev and with Lords Callaghan (article, January 5) and Weidenfeld (article, January 19) on Germany.

But what can in practical terms be done to establish a security system that will calm the fears of the Soviet Union and Germany's neighbours, protect the sovereignty of a united democratic Germany, and safeguard the interests of Western Europe? As Lord Callaghan puts the basic question?

Nato is of course not the whole answer, but Sir Reginald Hibbert is too dismissive of its role. There is no question of its being "transformed into a political instrument"; it has always been one.

However, we need not strive officiously to keep the Warsaw Pact alive — how could we, anyway? But we could certainly welcome its transformation into something like Nato — a free association of sovereign states with common political purposes, instead of the Soviet-run military instrument and rubber-stamp for Soviet political plays which it has in the past been.

This would open the way to cooperative approaches in important fields; it is in fact happening already in the Conference on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) and the recent meeting of Service chiefs from the two alliances. Mr Shevardnadze's visit to Nato HQ was, one hopes, a demonstration of realisation that, far from being a candidate for abolition, Nato has a positive role to play.

I believe that an evolutionary approach is called for, adapting and building on existing machinery, and that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) — including all the European states (save Albania, which can join at any time) and the US and Canada — fills the bill.

The apparent agreement to convene the conference in plenary session this year is a welcome step in the right direction. Why not keep the conference in permanent session at permanent representative level in, say, Berlin, with an agenda covering the whole field of the Helsinki Final Act?

All kinds of different groupings could be brought to bear, depending on the issue under discussion — the EC, EFTA, the European neutrals, Comecon (assuming it survives in some revised form), the Eastern Europeans, and even *ad hoc* combinations across party lines, so to speak.

Above all, in the field of

security, both long-term and in emerging crises, Nato and the Warsaw Pact (if it too survives in some more constructive form) would have a vital contribution to make. A peace-keeping role — even a sort of European "Security Council" — could develop, with better prospects than at the UN: the prospect of imminent hanging clarifies the collective European mind wonderfully!

To try to set up "something new and different" in the present climate risks encouraging those in the US who are keen to withdraw from Europe. Would the Administration not have great difficulty in getting any "new" arrangement approved by the Congress? On the other hand, US participation in CSCE is of long standing and fully accepted.

Secondly, the CSCE provides a ready-made home for those of the Soviet republics which are able to exercise their right to secede. They would, of course, have to accept the Helsinki Final Act — most importantly its provision for the peaceful settlement of disputes and the inviolability of frontiers — but they would immediately be members of the European family while waiting for membership of the EC or EFTA or whatever.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILLICK,
Challenger's Cottage,
2 Birchwood Avenue,
Southborough, Kent,
January 21.

From Mrs Inga Haag
Sir, I lived in various Balkan countries at different periods and I had many opportunities to learn about their minority and cross-border problems. I doubt whether the vision of totally independent East European countries — as envisaged by Sir Reginald Hibbert — is such an attractive outlook.

Even less than most other nations these countries did not implement policies inspired by "Love thy neighbour" guidelines; and they certainly competed with one another in making life difficult for their numerous, and sometimes unreasonable, minorities.

To return to the *status quo ante* of the Balkans between World War I and World War II, with treaty systems such as the Treaty of Trianon of 1920 and other equally unsatisfactory arrangements, and without a political safety structure which would reassure the members of Nato and the Warsaw Pact as well as protect the Eastern European states against their own temptations does not seem to be a promising policy formula to ensure stability in Europe.

Yours truly,
INGA HAAG
(Honorary Secretary),
Standing Conference of Atlantic Organizations,
1 Upper Wimpole Street, W1,
January 17.

A piece of history

From Mrs Pat O'Brien
Sir, I also have a tiny task case from HMS Iron Duke, Jellicoe's flagship in the Battle of Jutland (letter, January 20). My father, the late Bandmaster John Newton, Royal Marines band, was in that battle, manning the guns as a boy on HMS Agincourt. He said the noise of the guns nearly deafened him. He joined the Agincourt on December 19, 1914, and helped to coal-up the ship.

On receipt of a pipe rack made from the Iron Duke for his birthday in 1976 he wrote to me: "I was on the Agincourt in that battle and we did rather well. Our gunners certainly gave the Germans something to think about because we had seven turrets, that's 14 12-in. guns, and when we hit them we pushed them right out of line, besides damaging them."

We had a couple of German cruisers coming towards us... Commander Gibbs gave the order to fire. After we fired he reported the object shifted, which meant they had been sunk. Your Dad at the time was only 16½ years old.

Yours sincerely,
PAT O'BRIEN,
78 Kingsmead Road,
Tulse Hill, SW2.

Case of PC Judd

From Commander John Taylor
Sir, Until I read his article "Justice under a blue cloud" (January 12) I had admired Bernard Levin as a proponent of the principles of liberty and justice of the individual. Perhaps he is, but just makes an exception for policemen.

The presumption of innocence is as much a part of the bedrock of our criminal justice system as is the higher standard of proof, i.e., "beyond reasonable doubt". Not for PC David Judd though, according to Mr Levin. For him it would seem that a judgment in a civil action based on the lower standard of proof is enough to condemn him, destroy his career and expose him to public calumny. Nor is this condemnation restricted to PC Judd: the police service as a whole is damned for failing to share Mr Levin's view of how justice should be administered. Let me offer a few facts on the case.

Shortly after his drugs arrest in 1984 Mr Rupert Taylor complained of damage to his motor vehicle. He made no mention of drug "planting". In 1987, over 2½ years later, Mr Taylor's solicitors issued a writ. His allegations were investigated by an assistant chief constable from another force, supervised by the Police Complaints Authority. Solicitors, on

Wheels of justice

From Mr Christopher C. Saunby
Sir, I have been following, with interest, the correspondence in your columns concerning the delays experienced in the county courts. I am not sure whether my experiences are likely to establish any sort of record but it might be interesting to see whether any other correspondence can top the performance of Dartford County Court.

Acting for a client who was trying to recover money through that court, on November 13, 1989, application was made and, as a consequence, the defendant was ordered to serve a full defence within seven days of the application. I have just received the court's copy of the order which is dated November 30, 1989, but marked "drawn 11 January 1990".

Is there any wonder that the profession is having difficulty in explaining to its clients why it takes so long to secure justice?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER C. SAUNBY,
Toller Hales & Collett
(Solicitors),
Castilian Chambers,
2 Castilian Street, Northampton.

behalf of the Commissioner, defending the writ also investigated the matter.

Had either of those investigations raised doubts about the integrity of PC Judd's conduct the Commissioner would not have defended the action and decisions would have then been made on the question of criminal and disciplinary action against PC Judd.

In the event the action was defended and lost. An appeal is pending against the quantum of damages. Subsequent to the action, Mr Taylor has made available, for the first time, his evidence about PC Judd's conduct. A new investigation, headed by a senior officer from Thames Valley, will review all the evidence, leaving no stone unturned.

The investigation is being supervised by the Police Complaints Authority and decisions will be made by the authority and by the Director of Public Prosecutions on whether or not the evidence merits disciplinary or criminal prosecutions against PC Judd.

As with every other case the question of the officer's suspension is continually reviewed during the course of the enquiry. If and when there is evidence to support either a criminal or disciplinary charge then a decision will be taken.

Any other policy could only be

Public attitudes to homosexuality

From Mr R. A. Baker
Sir, Regarding the matter of the Scottish judges (reports, January 18, 19; leading article, January 19) the scandal is not that one or more may be homosexual, but is the implicit assumption that a homosexual judge, if blackmailed, would act dishonourably.

It is about time that we in this country actively defended the right of every man and woman, be they heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual, freely to be what they are and to express what they are, provided that they do nothing outside the law. And the law should be the same for all.

Unfortunately, even the Church has undermined such a growth of understanding and freedom as a consequence of its lack of charity toward gay clergy.

We can but hope that at some time in the not too distant future the day will dawn when we shall perceive the variations in man's sexuality as further evidence of the prodigal variety in God's creativity.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. BAKER,
30 White Lodge Close,
Christchurch Park,
Sutton, Surrey,
January 20.

From Professor Emeritus G. T. Stewart

Sir, To offer judgement on the condition of homosexuality as Messrs Bernard Levin and Brian Wilson (Labour spokesmen on Scottish home affairs) do in your columns on January 22, it is necessary to consider other matters besides the human rights and behaviour, discreet and otherwise, of committed and casual homosexuals. Some of these matters are deeply ingrained in human history and culture, in which it is difficult if not impossible to define differences between homosexual and heterosexual capacities, proclivities and needs, or between men and women; others are biological.

I write with reference to the latter. The fundamental biological difference is that, in males, the sexual drive, as expressed by active homosexuals, is sodomy. Damage to the rectum can extend beyond pelvic organs to the bloodstream and body generally. Although homosexuals might be no more susceptible than heterosexuals of both sexes to infection with human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV) and other sexually-transmitted infections, they have been much more prone to develop Aids and other complex diseases.

What is needed is a clear Government statement that homosexuality will not be sufficient ground for anyone's exclusion from the judiciary, and then much more openness on the part of judges themselves. Without these, gay people can have little confidence in the system's impartiality.

Because my attackers live quite close by, I had thought to ask you to withhold my name and address. This would have been a mistake. I am, therefore,

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ASHURST,
76 Gilday Road,
Tooting, SW17,
January 22.

Prompt diagnosis

From the Chairman of the Society of Clinical Psychiatrists
Sir, Every year in Britain a significant number of people die unnecessarily, cut short by conditions which a specialist would have been able to identify and treat at a far more promising stage had the person then been presented for specialist scrutiny.

At a time when a plethora of politician-led additions and changes to the medical system are being unleashed, may I suggest consideration of one that has been tried and tested, and is based on doctors — it is certainly running in some practices in Guernsey. In such a practice each one has postgraduate qualifications in a specialty. Thus patients are far more likely to get prompt specialist scrutiny.

The current system seems at times to produce reluctance to allow unexplained and rumbling symptoms to get specialist analysis till it may be too late. It needs emphasis that the public of this country have been well served by the competence, conscientiousness and good nature of the graduates of British medical schools, in the face of generally under-funded services, which the people of this country, of all political complexions, wish to see properly funded.

Yours faithfully,
HARRY JACOBS, Chairman,
Society of Clinical Psychiatrists,
The Coach House, Rochford,
Wormingford,
Colchester, Essex,
January 14.

calculated to deter officers from carrying out their duties impartially without fear or favour. Allegations against the police are easy to make, but frequently are as hard to disprove as they are to prove. It must be remembered that the burden of proof in these cases must be "beyond a reasonable doubt", not as in the civil case against PC Judd "on the balance of probabilities".

Let there be no doubt as to the determination of the police service to maintain the integrity of its officers and public confidence in that integrity. It will be reassuring to the fair-minded British public to know that we act in accordance with sound principles and not on interperate assumptions unsupported by evidence.

I still admire Mr Levin for his depth of irony in the article in drawing an analogy with a jury's belief that "newspapers are rotten, dishonest and full of lies". If there is insufficient evidence to prosecute or discipline PC Judd, or if he is innocent, I will admire Mr Levin even more if he has the grace to apologise.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TAYLOR
(Deputy Director),
Complaints Investigation Bureau,
Metropolitan Police Office,
Tintagel House,
Albert Embankment, SE1,
January 16.

June in January?

From Mr J. V. Smith
Sir, I am grateful for the front-page report by your correspondent, Robin Young, on the warmth of this winter (January 22) and for the news that a gardener in Bloomsbury was still gathering outdoor tomatoes.

After celebrating England's victory over Ireland at Twickenham, I was aroused by my daughter at 3 a.m. to listen to the sounds of Bloomsbury Square, WC1. Through the background noises from Holborn and Kingsway clearly came the song of the male nightingale.

I would only add that four of us heard it and only two had been celebrating. Mr Young's report reassures me immensely, as most people think we have lost our marbles.

The nightingale will be pleased as well to know about the tomatoes in Bloomsbury.

Yours truly,
JOHN V. SMITH,
Cappuccin Lodge,
Portacarron, Oughterard,
Co. Galway, Irish Republic,
January 22.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (01)782 5046.

field women and senior judicial posts. The commission is urging the Lord Chancellor to persuade more women lawyers to apply for jobs as Assistant Records, the first rung on the judicial ladder; to make more part-time counsellors; appointments; and to monitor women's progress in the judiciary.

As for Westminster itself, Lady Howe asserts caustically, that "parliamentary practice reflects its reputation as the best men's club in Britain — it suits male lifestyles very well. And even though in this clubbiest area of all we have a woman Prime Minister, it will take shock tactics — like a Speaker's Conference — to change the system and make it female-friendly."

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Baring other people's souls: producer Joanna Clinton Davies

Victoria McKee

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INFORMATION SERVICE

A nation in words and images

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN



BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
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THEATRE
LONDON

★ **'ALLO 'ALLO:** Positively last chance to see the Queen Mum's favourite show on stage. Pitch your expectations low. Ends Saturday.
Palladium Theatre, Argyll Street, London W1 (01-437 7379). Tube: Oxford Circus. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.30pm, mats Wed 2.45pm and Sat 5.30pm, £3.75-£16.50.

★ **ANOTHER TIME:** Albert Finney and Janet Suzman in a fuzzy play about South African whites and a circus pianist. Wyndham's Theatre, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (01-887 1116). Tube: Leicester Square. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 5pm and Sat 4pm, £5-£16.

★ **BENT:** Ian McKellen, Michael Cumpston in a revival of Martin Sherman's powerful drama of the Nazi persecution of homosexuals.
National Theatre (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-828 2222). Tube: Waterloo. Wed, Thurs 7.30pm, £7-£15.50. In repertory. (D)

★ **HEDDA GABLER:** Elizabeth Quill, Richard O'Callaghan in a new adaptation of Ibsen's screw-turning marital drama. King's Head Theatre, 115 Upper St, N1 (01-226 1916). Tube: Highbury and Islington. Tues-Sat 7.45-10pm, mats Sat 3.30-5.45pm and Sun 3-5.15pm. Tues, Wed and mats 6.30pm, Thurs, Fri and Sat 8pm. Dinner 6.45pm, £7.

★ **NOEL AND GERTIE:** Patricia Hodge and Simon Cadell sing, sing and dance in Sheridan Morley's tip top Memory Lane.
Comedy Theatre, Panton St, London SW1 (01-830 2578). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 8.45pm, mats Wed 3pm, Sat 6pm. £5.50-£16.

OUT OF TOWN

★ **CHESTERFIELD:** ★ **SING AS WE GO:** (See picture below) The musical about the life of a famous singer.
Pomegranate Theatre, Chesterfield (0246 234633). Wed-Sat 7.30pm, £3.

★ **DERRY:** ★ **Blood Knot:** Athol Fugard's celebrated drama of two South African sons of a coloured mother, one white, the other black.
Studio Theatre, Playhouse, Eagle Centre (0332 383275). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, £4. (D)



The life of the Rochdale-born singer Grace Fields (above) is evoked in the musical *Sing As We Go*, which starts a five-month British tour tonight in Chesterfield (see listing). She is played by the 26-year-old actress Karen Lynne, whose performance was widely acclaimed when the show was first staged last year. This year's venues include the Grace Fields Theatre in Rochdale in April. *Sing As We Go* was devised by Lynne and the actor-writer Graham Howes, and is being presented by their company, Edge of the World Theatre Productions.

★ **Cats:** New London Theatre (01-406 0072)... ★ **Les Liaisons Dangereuses:** Ambassador Theatre (01-836 6111)... ★ **The Muppet Show:** Adelphi Theatre (01-446 7913)... ★ **Les Liaisons Dangereuses:** Adelphi Theatre (01-446 7913)... ★ **The Muppet Show:** Adelphi Theatre (01-446 7913)...

FILMS

★ **Also on national release**
★ **Advance booking possible**

★ **LAST EXIT TO BROOKLYN (18):** Raw, powerful version of Hubert Selby Jr's controversial novel of Brooklyn life, from the director of *Christine F.* Union Ed. With Stephen Lang, Jennifer Jason Leigh (102 min).
Odeon Kensington (01-602 6644). Progs 1.10, 3.40, 6.15, 8.50, 11.15. Odeon Shaftesbury (01-722 5905). Progs 1.10, 3.40, 6.15, 8.50, 11.15. Odeon Shaftesbury (01-722 5905). Progs 1.10, 3.40, 6.15, 8.50, 11.15. Odeon Shaftesbury (01-722 5905). Progs 1.10, 3.40, 6.15, 8.50, 11.15.

★ **MYSTIC PIZZA (15):** Daffy crafted saga about three girlfriends testing romance on the brink of adulthood. With Julia Roberts, Annabeth Gish, Lily Taylor: a promising first feature from director Donald Fiszli (104 min).
Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0631). Progs 10.05 (late show only).

★ **PARENTHOOD (12):** Episodic heart-warmer from Ron Howard about the joys and sorrows of raising children. Features a large, excellent cast (Steve Martin, Jason Robards) (114 min).
Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0631). Progs 2.10, 5.00, 8.15, 11.15. Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0631). Progs 2.10, 5.00, 8.15, 11.15. Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0631). Progs 2.10, 5.00, 8.15, 11.15.

★ **SEX, LIES AND VIDEOTAPE (18):** Steven Soderbergh's Cannes winner—a deliciously poised study of human deception and sexual frustration, masterfully played by James Spader and Andie MacDowell (103 min).
Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0631). Progs 1.10, 3.40, 6.15, 8.50, 11.15. Cannon Picture Palace (01-930 0631). Progs 1.10, 3.40, 6.15, 8.50, 11.15.

DANCE

★ **LA FILLE MAL GARDEE:** Ashton's romantic comedy for the Royal Ballet, with the showpiece pas de six from Chaboussier's *La Fille Mal Gardee*.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (01-240 1066). 7.30pm, £1-£41.

★ **LA TRAVIATA:** Danced version of Dumas's story by Andre Prokoryev for London City Ballet.
New Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff (0222 394444). 7.30pm, £5-£11.50.

OPERA

★ **DUKE BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE:** Bartok's haunting two-act opera. In a new production designed and directed for Scottish Opera by Stefanos Lazaros. Kathryn Harcourt and Monica Jaffe are Bluebeard and Judith.
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). Tonight, Sat 7.15-10pm, £25-£50.

★ **HANSEL AND GRETEL:** English National Opera's revival continues its run with *Hansel and Gretel*, a new production by James Macdonald. James Macdonald conducts. Colleen St. Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161). 7.30-9.45pm, £3-£33. (D)

★ **THE CAUCASIAN CHALK CIRCLE:** Brecht's play set to a beguiling accompaniment of Chinese-influenced music by Stephen Warbeck, and presented with flair by the National Youth Music Theatre.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Ave, London EC1 (01-478 8518). Wed-Sat 7.30-9.45pm, mats Wed, Sat 2.30pm, £3-£10. (D)

"Encased Faith" (above) by Willie Doherty is among the paintings, sculptures, illustrations and videos by 40 artists selected for The British Art Show, which opens today in Glasgow. This is the third of these five-yearly events, although this time the ground rules have been slightly altered. All the works are now by artists under 35 and have been chosen to show "the very latest developments in the world of contemporary art" which reflect "the energy and diversity of multi-cultural Britain". The three selectors have also attempted to spot the incipient trends of the 1990s. In this respect Doherty's work is not among the more original contributions. He has adopted the word/image formula familiar over the

last 15 years in pieces by, most notably, sculptors Hamish Fulton and Richard Long and photographer Roger Palmer. The fenced-in rubbish and indestructible concrete boulders of "Encased Faith" assume, however, a more subtle, perhaps symbolic and political significance when we discover that this artist was born in Londonderry (in 1961) and works in Belfast. The British Art Show opens today in the newly-refurbished McLennan Gallery, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow (041 331 1854). Monday to Saturday 10am-6pm, Thursday 10am-10pm, Sunday noon-6pm, £1, until March 11. It will then tour to Leeds City Art Gallery (March 30) and Hayward Gallery, London (June 14).

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TELEVISION & RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Barking up the right tree?

Peter Waymark

Pitched somewhere in between the solemn and solid *Horizon* and the relentlessly jolly *Tomorrow's World*, QED (BBC1, 9.30pm) occupies a curious position in the BBC's science output. The title suggests the finality of proof yet the programmes are more often than not left hanging in the air. The urge to present serious subjects often goes uncomfortably hand in hand with the need to entertain a huge peak-time audience. A couple of weeks ago an edition of *Horizon* devoted to prospects for medical advance over the next decade was sceptical about a cure for cancer. Now comes QED, saying that



there might just be one. The bark of a tree in the Koru rainforest in Cameroon contains a chemical, flavon, with a molecule that attacks human cancer cells. Professor Peter Waterman of Strathclyde University travels from Glasgow to West Africa to find the molecule and bring it back to his laboratory. If there is an effective cancer drug to be extracted from the forest, the implications go far further than cancer sufferers. Instead of having to hack down its forests for timber to earn much-needed hard currency, Cameroon could leave the trees standing and make its money instead by doing a deal with drug companies. Intriguing though such speculation is, it hardly adds up to half an hour of television. To fill out, the camera follows Professor Waterman on the other legs of his African safari, as he visits a botanical garden at the foot of a volcano and negotiates a flimsy looking suspension bridge high over the rapids. In *Dispatches* (Channel 4, 8.30pm), Gwynne Richards reports from China, using secretly shot film, on an economy that is fast moving out of control. Foreign investment and tourism have dried up, a consequence of the massacre in Tiananmen Square, and the boom of the early 1980s has given way to recession. Hopes of creating a consumer society have been dashed as unsold goods, from fridges to soft drinks, pile up, and the factories that made them prepare for lean times. Roberts also highlights the little-publicized plight of China's 50 million migrant workers. Driven off the land by over-population, they sought work in the boom towns of the south. With the onset of the recession they and their families, without jobs or income and without even the money to get home.

BBC

6.00 *Coelex*.
6.30 *BBC Breakfast News* with Nicholas Witchell and Laurie Mayer. Includes regular news, sport, business and financial reports, sports bulletins, regional news, weather and travel information, and a review of the newspapers by Paul Cullen.
8.55 Regional news and weather.
9.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air*. Viewers comment on yesterday's television. To contribute ring 011 814 0424.
9.20 *Kitty*. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical discussion.
10.00 News and weather followed by *Going for Gold* (r).
10.25 *Children's BBC*, presented by Simon Parkin, begins with *Playdays* (r) 10.50 *Robbarts* (r) 10.55 *Five to Eleven*. Richard Pasco with a reading.
11.00 News and weather followed by *Open Air* introduced by Eamonn Holmes and Jayne Irving.
12.00 News and weather followed by *Commonwealth Games*. Highlights from the opening ceremony, which took place in Auckland, New Zealand, earlier today 12.45 Regional news and weather.
1.00 *One O'Clock News* with Philip Hayton. Weather.
1.30 *Neighbours*. Beverly is still feeling distraught, and the rest of the Robinson family suffer along with her. (Coelex).
1.50 *Going for Gold*. Henry Kelly hosts another round of the European general knowledge quiz show.
2.15 *Katie*. Following Gary's destruction of Empire Valley, Gregg is put on the spot.
3.00 *PrimeTimeLive*. Includes a visit to the home of Len Ravey who has built his home around his wife, the largest organ of its kind in Europe. Miriam O'Callaghan reports from Birmingham on a group of friends who are campaigning to save local bogland and David Jacobs and Sheila McClelland are joined in the studio by Jane Bevan who has advice on how to help the environment.
3.35 *Cartoon 3.50* *Dooby Duck's Disco Bus* (r) 3.55 *Rupert* (r) 4.00 *Wick and Rick*, starring Johnnie Burroughs and David Jarvis 4.15 *The Further Adventures of SuperTed* 4.25 *Jackanory*. Peter Davison with part three of Lewis Carroll's *Alice Through the Looking Glass* 4.35 *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*.
5.00 *Newsround 5.10* *Little Sir Nicholas*. Episode four and as Christmas approaches young Nicholas tries to overcome his fear of the sea.
5.35 *Neighbours* (r). (Coelex).
6.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. Weather.
6.30 *News*.
7.00 *Woman with Trevor* and Elizabeth Quinn. Phil Collins provides the music.
7.35 *Family Matters: The Right To Be a Child*. An increasing number of women are making the decision to become a single parent, either naturally or through AID - artificial insemination by donor. In the light of the current amendment being tabled to the Human Fertilisation Bill, which would deny unmarried women help to become mothers, Yvonne Roberts reports on how three single women faced up to their dilemma. Among the studio guests is Professor Richard Whittfield, chairman of the National Family Trust, who believes that every child deserves to have two parents.
8.05 *Clash: Sunset Sunrise*. Carole McKay and his son Tommy have a total confrontation, while Bobby discovers someone is after his wife. JR's life is about to change for ever, when the arrival of his wife's old friend is interrupted by a mysterious intruder. Standing Larry Hagman, Michael Wilding Jr and Patrick Duffy. (Coelex).
8.50 *Profile of View* with Anne Robinson.
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News*. With Michael Buerk, followed by *Regional News* and *Weather*.
9.30 *QED: A Realistic Remedy*. (Coelex) (see Choice).
10.00 *Commonwealth Games*. Live coverage of the opening events of the Games from Auckland including, at 2.30am approx swimming finals. The commentators are Hamilton Bland and Andy Jameson. Ends at 6.30.

ITV

6.00 *TV-am* begins with News and Good Morning Britain, introduced by Linda Mitchell and, from 7.00, by Mike Morris and Lorraine. Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00 and the third part of the Paul McCartney interview at 8.20. After Nine includes Kathy Taylor with a detoxification diet.
8.25 *Lucky Ladders*. Lennie Bennett hosts another round of the word quiz.
8.55 *Thames News* and weather.
10.00 *The Time ... The Place ...* Mike Scott and his audience discuss a topic in the news.
10.40 *This Morning*. Magazine series presented by Richard Madeley and Judy Finnigan. Today's edition includes advice on emotional problems; Hollywood gossip; news of volunteer organisations that need help; and microwave recipes. National news at 10.55 followed by regional news.
12.10 *Home and Away*. Matt breaks off his relationship with Alison.
1.00 *News at One* with John Suchet. Weather 1.20 *Thames News* and weather 1.30 *Santa Barbara*. Trouble erupts at Kelly's party. Followed by *Crimewatch* with Alison.
2.00 *Mavis Catches Up With ...* *Moscow Forbes*. Nine years after she first met the Russian tycoon, Mavis Nicholson meets him again at his London home.
2.30 *Take the High Road*. The wine tasting produces staff problems for Joanna.
3.00 *Give Us a Clue*. Lionel Blair and Liza Goddard captain two more celebrity teams in the game of charades. Joining them this afternoon are Christopher Biggins, Peter Blake, Anna Dawson, Sandra Dickinson, Kate Robbins and Alan Titchmarsh. Presented by Michael Parkinson 3.35 *Thames News* and weather 3.50 *Coronation Street*. A repeat of Monday's episode.
4.00 *Worrell*. Animated adventures of a shaggy dog with special powers 4.15 *Hill's Cartoon Club* 4.40 *Mr Mole*. When the standard of education at St Barry's comes under examination, Melilla manages to be in 20 classrooms at once. Starring Stanley Baxter.
5.10 *Blockbusters*. Quiz game 5.40 *News* with Nicholas Owen. Weather 6.00 *Home and Away*.
6.25 *Thames News* and weather.
6.50 *Thames Help* visits Southwark Money Advice Centre.
7.00 *This is Your Life*. Michael Aspel springs an emotional surprise on another unsuspecting victim.
7.30 *Coronation Street*. Mike Baldwin starts to build a new business empire. (Oracle).
8.00 *Inspector Morse*. Masonic Mysteries. Morse's new girlfriend is stabbed to death and the detective is arrested as the prime murder suspect. When even loyal Sergeant Lewis doubts his boss is guilty, Morse realises someone is out to get him. (Oracle).
10.00 *News at Ten* with Alistair Burnet and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.30 *Thames News* and weather.
10.50 *Football Special*. Nick Owen introduces football and boxing action. Coverage of Sunderland boxer Billy Hardy's clash with Texan Orlando Canizales for the IBF World Super Lightweight Championship, plus the best of the nation's football from the Littlewoods Cup.
12.30am *The Oldest Rookie*. Ike and Tony have an unusual case on their hands when their boss sends them to investigate a perfume laboratory where tests on a new scent have shown it causes amnesia.
1.30 *Stories in the Night*. Nick Stuart is the presenter of this series which examines a wide range of topics, from telepathy to reincarnation.
2.00 *News* headlines followed by *Videofashion*. A report on the fashions we can expect to be wearing during the 90s, and a look at this season's essential garments. Featuring designers Christian Lacroix and Geoffrey Beene.
2.30 *America's Top Ten* introduced by 3.00 *Friday the 13th*. Mick and Ryan believe that London's Mayor is responsible for the death of a young woman.
4.00 *News* headlines followed by *Motor Racing Special*. The Honda CRX Challenge from Brands Hatch.
4.30 *Fifty Years On*. Vintage pictures.
5.00 *ITN Morning News* with Richard Beth. Ends at 6.00.

Channel 4

6.40 *Commonwealth Games*. Live coverage of the opening of the Games by the Queen.
8.30 *Westminster*. Coverage of yesterday's proceedings in Parliament 8.15 *Coelex*.
8.30 *Daytime on Two*. Science and sport 8.50 *German for beginners* 9.05 *For the very young* 10.20 *Science*. Structures 10.40 *Life in Edwardian Scotland* 11.00 *Learning to read* 11.15 *Watrus* 11.35 *Managing schools* 12.10 *Flying contraptions* 12.30 *Smoking* and young people 12.50 *Communication skills* 1.20 *Bertha* 1.40 *The Odyssey*.
2.00 *News* and weather followed by a story for children.
2.15 *Country File* (r) 2.40 *Arthur*. *Angus* enjoys Temple Newsam near Leeds (r).
3.00 *News* and weather followed by *Indoor Hockey*. Coverage from Crystal Palace of the Royal Bank club championships (r) 3.50 *News*, regional news and weather.
4.00 *Catchword* presented by Paul Coia.
4.30 *Behind the Headlines*. After a report dismissing today's teenagers as apathetic, Beverly Anderson talks to four of them to find out their views.
5.00 *One in Four*. Magazine series on disabled matters.
5.30 *DEF 100* (Coelex).
6.00 *DEF 100* begins with *The Invisible Man* starring David McCallum 6.50 *Reportage* 7.40 *Rapido*. Antoine de Caunes presents *Art of Noise*, the Gaultier series. *France Hardy* and John Lee Hooker.
8.10 *On the Line*. Drugs, Lies and Finishing Taps. A leading British sportsman claims that up to 95% of athletics competitors take banned drugs to improve their performance.
8.00 *A Night Reader* has left, and the last of the 1077th discover that he was indispensable (r).
8.25 *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*. The final episode and a year after being 'banned' by his mother and the congregation, Jess meets and falls in love with Katy. Disowned by all around her, she finds freedom when she leaves home to live on her own and under a shop.
10.30 *Building Sights*. Peter Palumbo sketches Holland House, a City office block (r).
10.50 *Newsnight*.
11.15 *The Show*. Arts and media magazine.
11.45 *Weather*.
11.50 *Behind the Headlines*. See 4.30 ends at 12.25am.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 *The Channel Four Daily*.
6.25 *Schools*.
12.30 *The Parliament Programme*.
1.00 *Seamless Street*. Pre-school learning series. The guest is Jamie Lee Curtis.
2.00 *The Cases*. Focusing on retraining long-stay psychiatric patients for life outside an institution (r). (Oracle).
2.30 *Gnostics: A Crack in the Universe*. Today's final episode depicts the Gnostic beliefs that the world was not created by God but a lower form of divinity (r).
3.30 *General Levine*. Debussy accompanies animated images of Victoriana.
3.40 *The Open Wintry Show*. A discussion on sex before marriage.
4.30 *Countdown*.
5.00 *Children from Many Countries*. The Edge of the Jungle. Narrated by Veronica Hyks (r).
5.30 *Country Ways*. (r). Isle of Thanet in February. (Oracle).
6.00 *Stamp of Greatness*. The story of Robert Burns (r).
6.30 *A Different World*. American campus comedy (r).
7.00 *Channel 4 News* with Jon Snow and Zennab Badawi.
7.50 *Party Political*. Comment from a Conservative politician. Followed by *Weather*.
8.00 *Brookside*. Terry receives devastating news. (Oracle).
8.30 *Dispatches* (see choice).
9.15 *Signals* examines banned Soviet writing now being rescued under glasnost.
10.15 *Film: The Commissar* (1967, b/w) Soviet comedy (r).
10.45 *Newsnight*.
11.00 *Newsnight*.
11.45 *Weather*.
11.50 *Behind the Headlines*. See 4.30 ends at 12.25am.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
5.00am Sky News 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *DJ Kat* 6.30 *Panel* *Point* 10.00 *The Sullivan* 10.30 *Sky By Day* 11.30 *A Problem Shared* 12.00 *Another World* 12.55pm *General Hospital* 1.50 *As the World Turns* 2.45 *Loving* 3.15 *The Young Doctors* 3.45 *Captain Caveman* 4.00 *Plastic Man* 4.30 *The New Leave It to Beaver Show* 5.00 *Sky Star Search* 6.00 *The New Price is Right* 6.30 *Sale of the Century* 7.00 *Hey Dad* 7.30 *Mr Belvedere* 8.00 *Downton* 8.00pm *Falcon Crest* 10.00 *Jamison* *Tonight* 11.00 *Sky News* 11.30 *Voyagers*

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
5.00am World Business Report 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *World Business Report* 10.30 *Frank Bough* 11.30 *World Business Report* 1.30pm *NBC Today* 2.30 *Parliament Live* 3.15 *Sky By Day* 4.30 *A Problem Shared* 5.00 *NBC Today* 5.00 *Live at Five* 6.30 *Beyond 2000* 7.30 *The Reporters* 8.30 *Frank Bough* 9.30 *Newsline* 10.30 *The Reporters* 11.30 *NBC Nightly News* 12.30 *Frank Bough* 1.30 *Newsline* 2.30 *The Reporters* 3.30 *Frank Bough* 4.30 *Newsline*

SKY MOVIES
From 8.00am *The Satellite Shop* 2.00pm *Frog Frog*. The true story of a girl who opposed the dissection of animals in her biology class.
8.30 *The Hoboken Chicken Emergency*. A live chicken invades a family home at Thanksgiving.
4.00 *Robotix - The Movie*. Animated battle between two rival groups of robots.
6.00 *Miracles* (1985). A happily divorced couple are thrown back together again.
7.40 *Entertainment Tonight*.
8.00 *Adventures in Babysitting* (1987). A phone call disrupts an evening's babysitting.
10.00 *Commando* (1985). Arnold Schwarzenegger searches for the men who have kidnapped his daughter.
11.30 *Blue Velvet* (1986). Jeffrey (Kyle MacLachlan) faces the darker side of his psyche. With Dennis Hopper and Isabella Rossellini.
1.30am *Flesh and Blood* (1985). Ringer Hauser leads a gang of medieval cut-throats.
4.00 *Crimes of the Heart* (1986). Starring Diane Keaton, Sally Spacek and Jessica Lange. Ends at 4.00am.

EUROSPORT
5.00am World Business Report 5.30 *European Business Channel* 6.00 *DJ Kat* 6.30 *Menu* 9.00 *Australian Open Tennis* 11.00 *Eurosport - What a Week!* 12.00 *World Cup Ski Jumping* 1.00pm *WWF Superstars of Wrestling* 2.00 *16 Days of Glory* 4.00 *Indy* 4.30 *Trans World Sport* 7.00 *World Cup Skiing* 8.00 *Australian Open Tennis* 9.00 *Commonwealth Games* 10.00 *World Cup Football* 11.00 *World Championship of Motor Sport* 12.00 *Curling*

MTV
5.30am *Club MTV* 6.00 *Kristiane Backer* 10.30 *At the Movies* 11.00 *Remote Control* 11.30 *XPO* 12.30pm *Backer* 1.00 *Marcel Vanthilt* 4.00 *3 from 1* 4.15 *Marcel Vanthilt* 6.00 *Remote Control* 6.30 *Club MTV* 6.00 *Ray Cokes* 8.00 *At the Movies* 8.30 *US Top 20* 10.00 *Maliken Wex* 1.00am *Videos*

SCREENSPORT
7.00am *Boxing* 8.30 *Rugby League* 10.00 *French Rugby League* 11.30 *Ice Skating* 12.15pm *Ice Hockey* 2.15 *Cycling* 3.15 *59 French Formula Turbo Cup* 4.15 *Spanish Soccer* 5.00 *US Professional Boxing* 7.30 *Update*, *Ice Speedway* 8.30 *Pro Box* 10.30 *USA PGA Golf* 12.30am *Sport on France*

LIFESTYLE
10.00am *Fitness Minute* 10.01 *Search for Tomorrow* 10.25 *Fashion File* 10.35 *Wok With Yan* 11.00 *Coffee Break* 11.10 *Edge of Night* 11.35 *Great American Gameshow* 12.50pm *What's New* 12.55 *Sally Jessy Raphael* 1.50 *Skyways* 2.40 *Search for Tomorrow* 3.05 *Teabreak* 3.15 *The Detectives* 4.05 *Jack Thompson* 4.15 *Under 4.35 Lifestyle* Plus 4.45 *Great American Gameshow*

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
News on the hour from 6.00 to 12.00. Then at 7.30, 8.30 and 10.00pm.
6.00am *Jaki Brambles* 6.30 *Simon Mayo* 6.50 *Simon Bates* 7.00 *Simon Bates* 7.10 *Simon Bates* 7.20 *Simon Bates* 7.30 *Simon Bates* 7.40 *Simon Bates* 7.50 *Simon Bates* 8.00 *Simon Bates* 8.10 *Simon Bates* 8.20 *Simon Bates* 8.30 *Simon Bates* 8.40 *Simon Bates* 8.50 *Simon Bates* 9.00 *Simon Bates* 9.10 *Simon Bates* 9.20 *Simon Bates* 9.30 *Simon Bates* 9.40 *Simon Bates* 9.50 *Simon Bates* 10.00 *Simon Bates* 10.10 *Simon Bates* 10.20 *Simon Bates* 10.30 *Simon Bates* 10.40 *Simon Bates* 10.50 *Simon Bates* 11.00 *Simon Bates* 11.10 *Simon Bates* 11.20 *Simon Bates* 11.30 *Simon Bates* 11.40 *Simon Bates* 11.50 *Simon Bates* 12.00 *Simon Bates*

RADIO 2

FM Stereo and MW
News on the hour from 6.00 to 12.00. Then at 7.30, 8.30 and 10.00pm.
6.00am *Alan 6.30* *Alan 6.40* *Alan 6.50* *Alan 7.00* *Alan 7.10* *Alan 7.20* *Alan 7.30* *Alan 7.40* *Alan 7.50* *Alan 8.00* *Alan 8.10* *Alan 8.20* *Alan 8.30* *Alan 8.40* *Alan 8.50* *Alan 9.00* *Alan 9.10* *Alan 9.20* *Alan 9.30* *Alan 9.40* *Alan 9.50* *Alan 10.00* *Alan 10.10* *Alan 10.20* *Alan 10.30* *Alan 10.40* *Alan 10.50* *Alan 11.00* *Alan 11.10* *Alan 11.20* *Alan 11.30* *Alan 11.40* *Alan 11.50* *Alan 12.00*

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am *Morgannegon* 6.35 *News in English* and *French* 6.45 *Sports News* 6.50 *French News* 7.00 *Sports News* 7.10 *French News* 7.20 *Sports News* 7.30 *French News* 7.40 *Sports News* 7.50 *French News* 8.00 *Sports News* 8.10 *French News* 8.20 *Sports News* 8.30 *French News* 8.40 *Sports News* 8.50 *French News* 9.00 *Sports News* 9.10 *French News* 9.20 *Sports News* 9.30 *French News* 9.40 *Sports News* 9.50 *French News* 10.00 *Sports News* 10.10 *French News* 10.20 *Sports News* 10.30 *French News* 10.40 *Sports News* 10.50 *French News* 11.00 *Sports News* 11.10 *French News* 11.20 *Sports News* 11.30 *French News* 11.40 *Sports News* 11.50 *French News* 12.00 *Sports News* 12.10 *French News* 12.20 *Sports News* 12.30 *French News* 12.40 *Sports News* 12.50 *French News* 1.00 *Sports News* 1.10 *French News* 1.20 *Sports News* 1.30 *French News* 1.40 *Sports News* 1.50 *French News* 2.00 *Sports News* 2.10 *French News* 2.20 *Sports News* 2.30 *French News* 2.40 *Sports News* 2.50 *French News* 3.00 *Sports News* 3.10 *French News* 3.20 *Sports News* 3.30 *French News* 3.40 *Sports News* 3.50 *French News* 4.00 *Sports News* 4.10 *French News* 4.20 *Sports News* 4.30 *French News* 4.40 *Sports News* 4.50 *French News* 5.00 *Sports News* 5.10 *French News* 5.20 *Sports News* 5.30 *French News* 5.40 *Sports News* 5.50 *French News* 6.00 *Sports News* 6.10 *French News* 6.20 *Sports News* 6.30 *French News* 6.40 *Sports News* 6.50 *French News* 7.00 *Sports News* 7.10 *French News* 7.20 *Sports News* 7.30 *French News* 7.40 *Sports News* 7.50 *French News* 8.00 *Sports News* 8.10 *French News* 8.20 *Sports News* 8.30 *French News* 8.40 *Sports News* 8.50 *French News* 9.00 *Sports News* 9.10 *French News* 9.20 *Sports News* 9.30 *French News* 9.40 *Sports News* 9.50 *French News* 10.00 *Sports News* 10.10 *French News* 10.20 *Sports News* 10.30 *French News* 10.40 *Sports News* 10.50 *French News* 11.00 *Sports News* 11.10 *French News* 11.20 *Sports News* 11.30 *French News* 11.40 *Sports News* 11.50 *French News* 12.00 *Sports News* 12.10 *French News* 12.20 *Sports News* 12.30 *French News* 12.40 *Sports News* 12.50 *French News* 1.00 *Sports News* 1.10 *French News* 1.20 *Sports News* 1.30 *French News* 1.40 *Sports News* 1.50 *French News* 2.00 *Sports News* 2.10 *French News* 2.20 *Sports News* 2.30 *French News* 2.40 *Sports News* 2.50 *French News* 3.00 *Sports News* 3.10 *French News* 3.20 *Sports News* 3.30 *French News* 3.40 *Sports News* 3.50 *French News* 4.00 *Sports News* 4.10 *French News* 4.20 *Sports News* 4.30 *French News* 4.40 *Sports News* 4.50 *French News* 5.00 *Sports News* 5.10 *French News* 5.20 *Sports News* 5.30 *French News* 5.40 *Sports News* 5.50 *French News* 6.00 *Sports News* 6.10 *French News* 6.20 *Sports News* 6.30 *French News* 6.40 *Sports News* 6.50 *French News* 7.00 *Sports News* 7.10 *French News* 7.20 *Sports News* 7.30 *French News* 7.40 *Sports News* 7.50 *French News* 8.00 *Sports News* 8.10 *French News* 8.20 *Sports News* 8.30 *French News* 8.40 *Sports News* 8.50 *French News* 9.00 *Sports News* 9.10 *French News* 9.20 *Sports News* 9.30 *French News* 9.40 *Sports News* 9.50 *French News* 10.00 *Sports News* 10.10 *French News* 10.20 *Sports News* 10.30 *French News* 10.40 *Sports News* 10.50 *French News* 11.00 *Sports News* 11.10 *French News* 11.20 *Sports News* 11.30 *French News* 11.40 *Sports News* 11.50 *French News* 12.00 *Sports News* 12.10 *French News* 12.20 *Sports News* 12.30 *French News* 12.40 *Sports News* 12.50 *French News* 1.00 *Sports News* 1.10 *French News* 1.20 *Sports News* 1.30 *French News* 1.40 *Sports News* 1.50 *French News* 2.00 *Sports News* 2.10 *French News* 2.20 *Sports News* 2.30 *French News* 2.40 *Sports News* 2.50 *French News* 3.00 *Sports News* 3.10 *French News* 3.20 *Sports News* 3.30 *French News* 3.40 *Sports News* 3.50 *French News* 4.00 *Sports News* 4.10 *French News* 4.20 *Sports News* 4.30 *French News* 4.40 *Sports News* 4.50 *French News* 5.00 *Sports News* 5.10 *French News* 5.20 *Sports News* 5.30 *French News* 5.40 *Sports News* 5.50 *French News* 6.00 *Sports News* 6.10 *French News* 6.20 *Sports News* 6.30 *French News* 6.40 *Sports News* 6.50 *French News* 7.00 *Sports News* 7.10 *French News* 7.20 *Sports News* 7.30 *French News* 7.40 *Sports News* 7.50 *French News* 8.00 *Sports News* 8.10 *French News* 8.20 *Sports News* 8.30 *French News* 8.40 *Sports News* 8.50 *French News* 9.00 *Sports News* 9.10 *French News* 9.20 *Sports News* 9.30 *French News* 9.40 *Sports News* 9.50 *French News* 10.00 *Sports News* 10.10 *French News* 10.20 *Sports*

● BUSINESS & FINANCE 23-28
● LAW 28
● MEDIA & MARKETING 30-31
● SPORT 39-44

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6495 (+0.0105)
W German mark
2.7992 (-0.0223)
Exchange index
87.8 (-0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1839.6 (-0.5)
FT-SE 100
2281.1 (-6.0)
USM (Datastream)
156.42 (-0.79)
Market report, page 26

18 insider inquiries

Eighteen cases of possible insider dealing are being investigated by the Department of Trade and Industry. This was revealed yesterday by Mr John Redwood, junior trade minister, after a written question from Mr Martin Redmond, the Labour MP.

Accis steps up

Accis, the marketing services group, is to step up from the USM to a full listing. Profits doubled to £7.4 million last year while earnings per share climbed 64 per cent to 5.4p. A final of 0.7p makes 1p, up 67 per cent. *Tempus, page 24*

Courts lower

Courts, the furniture retailer, made pre-tax profits of £3.11 million in the six months to September against £4.3 million. Turnover was £68.9 million, up from £65.1 million and earnings per share fell from 10.5p to 7.95p. The interim stays at 1.83p. *Tempus, page 24*

STOCK MARKETS

New York
Dow Jones 2614.19 (+13.74)
Tokyo
Nikkei Average 3798.02 (+121.01)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2782.45 (+9.20)
Amsterdam
AEX 113.5 (-0.3)
Frankfurt
DAX 1801.82 (+22.22)
Brussels
General 6385.81 (+84.84)
Paris
CAC 40 3182.2 (-2.6)
Zurich
SIX 608.1 (-3.5)
London
FT-30 1839.6 (-0.5)
FT-100 2281.1 (-6.0)
FT-1000 249.50 (+0.02)
FT-10000 249.50 (+0.02)
FT-100000 249.50 (+0.02)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISE:
Midland 371 1/2p (+12p)
Standard & Chart 581 1/2p (+23p)
Caird Group 531 1/2p (+11p)
Ferranti 32p (+4p)
Liberty 45p (+10p)

FALLS:

FAI 120p (-10p)
Reichman 487 1/2p (-27p)
Security Services 451 1/2p (-18p)
Slebe 560 1/2p (-11p)
Trafalgar House 537 1/2p (-12p)
J Smith 642 1/2p (-10p)
Anglo Group 287 1/2p (-12p)
SA Breweries 510p (-45p)
Thomson Corp 795p (-40p)
Redland 585p (-13p)
Henderson Admin 795p (-15p)
Davies & Newman 675p (-45p)
Borland 747 1/2p (-25p)
Micro Focus 522 1/2p (-15p)
Closing prices
Bargains 31131
SEAO Volume 544.3m

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 15%
3-month interbank 15.15-15.25%
3-month eligible bills 14.14-14.25%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.66-7.64%
30-year bonds 8 1/2-8 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London New York
£: \$1.6495
DM: £1.6495
S: SwF1.5072
S: FF9.7680
S: Yen148.08
S: Indec37.8
ECU £0.79451 SDP £0.79727
S: SCU1.37655 S: SDP1.253718

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$408.60 pm \$408.25
close \$408.50-410.00 (\$248.00-249.50)
New York
Comex \$412.30-412.80

NORTH SEA OIL

Direct (Mar) ... \$19.25 bbl (\$19.70)
Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

| | Bank | Bank |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Amsterdam | 2.185 | 2.025 |
| Antwerp | 20.85 | 19.35 |
| Brussels | 2.017 | 1.997 |
| Cologne | 17.25 | 16.75 |
| Frankfurt | 17.25 | 16.75 |
| Geneva | 9.36 | 9.36 |
| London | 264.82 | 261.80 |
| Madrid | 13.47 | 12.57 |
| Paris | 1.712 | 1.642 |
| Rome | 2.25 | 2.25 |
| Stockholm | 11.57 | 10.71 |
| Switzerland | 2.25 | 2.25 |
| Vienna | 10.72 | 10.72 |
| Zurich | 4.330 | 3.730 |
| Yugoslavia | 1.727 | 1.827 |

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques.
Retail Price Index: 118.5 (December)

Bank loans extended after surprise deal with GEC

Ferranti sells defence side

By David Brewerton

Banking arrangements for Ferranti International were last night extended until August after the stunning announcement that the group has reached agreement for the sale of the defence systems business for £310 million to General Electric Company.

The deal was struck as the proposed £187 million rights issue went into the final phases, and Ferranti is seeking to extend the underwriting period of the rights issue.

The indications are that if the deal goes ahead as planned, the rights issue will not have to go ahead at all.

The £310 million proceeds

from the sale of the defence systems business would be set against debts of some £400 million at Ferranti, and the residual debt could probably be financed from banking sources without the need for the company to call on shareholders for fresh funds.

The sale price includes part of Ferranti's interests in Italy, and will encompass all the business and assets of the Edinburgh-based defence operation. It will include the work to date that Ferranti has done on the radar for the European Fighter Aircraft, the contract for which is now in its final stages of negotiation.

The deal will mean that Ferranti's proposed extraor-

dinary general meeting, at which approval would have been sought to press ahead with the rights issue, is likely to be adjourned.

Sir Derek Alun-Jones, Ferranti's chairman, said that he had been able to negotiate the agreement with GEC "as a result of the strengthened position given to us by the standby underwriting facility".

Ferranti has all along tried to avoid being pushed into a "forced sale" of the whole or any parts of the business, and by setting up the standby was able to negotiate what it regards as a proper price.

Sir Derek added: "The price we have agreed properly re-

flects the premium values of Ferranti International's excellent operations in Scotland and Italy."

The price is much in line with the valuations placed on the defence businesses by investment analysts, but tops by a clear £100 million the valuations which were put on the business by Thomson CSF, the French electronics group which dropped out of the running to bid for Ferranti last week.

The £310 million exceeds by some £50 million the entire market valuation of Ferranti as measured by the share price.

The shares were already active yesterday, rising 5p to

34p on reports, still to be confirmed, that Ferranti had won the EFA contract.

It is not clear whether or not Ferranti will still be seeking an equity partner with which to rebuild the business in the wake of the suspected fraud at International Signal and Control, the US weapons maker it purchased in an effort to broaden the base of the business.

Still up for sale, at a suggested £100 million or so, is another major part of the defence operations, the Marquardt Company, a California-based manufacturer of weapons systems.

Sir Derek, who has had to face calls for his resignation

over the International Signal affair, confirmed that Ferranti will be issuing writs to advisers connected with the ISC deal.

Meanwhile, Mr James Guerin, former deputy chairman of Ferranti, claimed he warned senior Ferranti executives one year ago that a large defence contract with Pakistan was in trouble and accused the company of failing to tell shareholders until nine months later.

According to a lengthy report in the *Wall Street Journal* yesterday, Mr Guerin, through his lawyer Mr Joseph Tate, said Ferranti officials did not have clean hands and were blaming Mr Guerin to "mask

their own financial problems" and mismanagement.

Mr Tate said in the *Journal* that Mr Guerin met Sir Derek Alun-Jones and other Ferranti managers last January and conceded that there were "collectability" problems with the \$500 million (£304 million) Pakistani missile deal and a big part of the UAE contract.

In a recent letter to Ferranti, Mr Tate accused the company of not telling shareholders immediately about the problem contracts and of reporting "an exceptionally aggressive profit" on those deals.

Ferranti would not comment, saying the matter was in the courts.

Refinancing gives BSB extra £900m

By Matthew Bond

British Satellite Broadcasting expects its five satellite television channels to be launched on schedule this spring, despite the need for three of the companies backing the £1.3 billion venture to seek shareholder approval for their involvement in the final round of financing.

BSB's refinancing package effectively gives the company an extra £900 million to spend in addition to the £400 million already spent. Because of the need for shareholder approval, the refinancing was announced yesterday as "an agreement in principle".

About £450 million takes the form of non-recourse project finance made available by a syndicate led by Barclays Bank. But a further £450 million has had to be guaranteed by BSB shareholders.

Only four of the 10 shareholders in the company have so far given such guarantees, said Mr Antony Simmonds-Gooding, BSB's chief executive. As expected, the four are Reed International, Pearson, Granada and Chargeurs, of France.

In return for the guarantees and a token cash consideration, the four companies will be granted up to 1.6 billion new BSB shares, potentially giving them 90 per cent of the company. The Stock Exchange has insisted that three quoted British com-

panies hold extraordinary general meetings to gain approval for these guarantees, which could total £112.5 million for each company.

Mr Ian Chubb, BSB's finance director, dismissed the idea that the need to hold these meetings could delay the BSB launch, now expected in April. Nor did he expect the three egms to cast further uncertainty over the project.

He added: "From our point of view, we see no uncertainty or potential delay. We had hoped dispensation would be granted - it was not. But the process can be accommodated quite comfortably within the timetable we have set."

The remaining shareholders - including BSB's biggest shareholder, Bond Corporation, which has a 36.6 per cent stake - have until June to decide whether or not to take up their rights. Next and Anglia TV have indicated they are unlikely to do so.

Bond is trying to find a buyer for its stake. If a buyer can be found willing to take up the rights issue, the stake falls to 34 per cent. If Bond does not take up the rights, it falls to about 7 per cent.

The project finance is to be repaid over an eight-year period, although Mr Chubb is anticipating an early repayment. BSB's franchise runs until 2005.



Antony Simmonds-Gooding at yesterday's announcement: only four of the 10 investors have so far guaranteed new funds

Stock market hit by systems failure

By Colin Narborough

The International Stock Exchange suffered a systems failure in the middle of the trading day yesterday, seriously disrupting the display of its prices and volume data, including the FTSE 100 index.

The ISE's history of computer failures, which began at Big Bang, in 1986, continues to provoke criticism, especially from institutions, which fear that the problems could force business abroad.

which produces price and volume data for the TOPIC screens was out of action between noon and 2.20pm, but the SEAO automated quote system was working normally throughout the day, providing market makers and brokers with the correct share prices, Mr David Morton, an ISE spokesman said.

Sharp movements in the FTSE index seen on Topic during the breakdown were caused by the system being rapidly updated with old numbers before coming back on stream, he said.

Mr Morton stressed that screens carried a warning at this time telling viewers to turn to an advice, which informed them that the system was still down.

The exchange had received no complaints, apart from a few calls that had been made to the press office.

Mr Morton said that the ISE monitored the performance of its computer system closely. Its latest figures showed a

99.2 per cent performance record.

Dealers recognized that the FTSE display appeared to be giving inaccurate figures when EPIC was down and waited for the system to return before resuming trading.

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) said that the breakdown appeared to have had no impact on it, because the FTSE futures contract was not coming to term and dealers were aware of developments

Panel rejects changes to bid acceptance rule

By Angela Mackay

The Takeover Panel yesterday ruled out changes to arrangements for bid acceptances under the code after overturning an executive decision made last week relating to YJ Lovell's failed £167 million bid for Higgs and Hill, another construction company.

The panel said that it believed the code's acceptance arrangements "worked satisfactorily in the interests of all parties in takeover offers and that variations should not be authorized which might be capable of being exploited in unpredictable ways."

Last Thursday, two days before the offer period closed, Lovell's, the merchant bank, applied to hold acceptances on behalf of shareholders and use them only if the number of

normal acceptances combined with these conditional acceptances would give Lovell victory with 51 per cent.

Lovell said the request to the panel's executive was at the behest of a shareholder in Higgs and Hill. Analysts said the scheme would allow institutional shareholders to wind up on the winning side without endangering their relationship with the target.

Acceptances are anonymous until after the bid is concluded and may never be known if the bid fails. The executive made an ex parte ruling, giving Lovell's permission to put the conditional acceptance proposal to shareholders.

But it said that if the offer failed, those shareholders who availed themselves of the

Lovell's service should not get their share certificates back before shareholders who accepted conventionally.

Schroders, Higgs and Hill's adviser, appealed to the panel on Friday - the day before the bid closed - and had the executive's decision overturned.

Not only did the panel say this and other forms of conditional delivery were unacceptable, it ruled that a variation at such a late stage in the offer, affecting just a few shareholders, was improper anyway. The ruling was the first by the new Takeover Panel chairman, Mr David Calcutt, the QC who took over from Lord Alexander of Weordon when he moved to head National Westminster Bank.

Profits of £216,000 at John Wood

By Colin Campbell

John D Wood, the estate agent, has swung back into profit after being badly hit by depressed conditions in residential housing. Against a preceding six months pre-tax loss of £178,000 there is a pre-tax profit of £216,000 for the period ended October 31 - and "the encouraging trend is continuing."

The outcome excludes an extraordinary £224,000 profit on the sale of a freehold interest. Interim turnover was £2.46 million (£2.99 million).

In the first six months of the previous year, the group reported pre-tax profits of £435,000 - but market conditions in the second half led to sharply lower year-end results. The interim dividend stays at 1.5p a share, payable March 2. *Tempus, page 25*

World Bank sets aside £4.5 bn for loans over three years

A helping hand for Eastern Europe

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

The World Bank could lend member countries in Eastern Europe up to \$7.5 billion (£4.5 billion) over the next three years as part of its intention to play a leading role in help and advice on restructuring their economies. But loans would depend on IMF-approved reforms going through and, in the case of Poland, would in the end require some of its \$39 billion foreign debt being written off by creditor nations, which account for two thirds.

Signor Eugenio Lari, a director of the Bank's operations in Europe, said that the Bank could lend Poland up to \$2.5 billion more over the period in straight loans and in trade adjustment loans to bank policy initiatives and help cope with potential unemployment and inflation. Hungary could take a further \$1 billion and Yugoslavia \$2 billion. He

said the situation in Romania, which had been a member since 1970, was uncertain but that it might be able to absorb \$2 billion.

Mr Don Roth, the World Bank's vice-president and treasurer, said that loans on this scale would come from the Bank's existing resources and would not be at the expense of any other area.

The World Bank is also anxious to stress advice and technical assistance. Signor Lari told a seminar near Windsor, Berkshire, that bank officials could advise other Eastern European countries on market mechanisms and structures even if they had not yet become members of the Bank. Czechoslovakia has applied for membership and Bulgaria and East Germany have expressed interest. But this would require membership of the International Monetary Fund.

In Hungary, where action has been delayed pending the outcome of elections, the World Bank has helped advise opposition parties on economic policy. Signor Lari said the bank could lend Yugoslavia up to \$800 million a year but was only lending \$100 million because of the political and economic crisis.

He said that privatization in Poland and Hungary was being held up by confusion over owned public enterprises and the lack of any meaningful accounts to value them. In Poland even cheques were not yet in wide use, and a high priority would be to set up a two-tier banking system with a new network of commercial banks.

The International Finance Corporation, the Bank's affiliate for private sector projects, aims to play a part in reforming the financial sector in Poland through a new joint venture bank involving foreign interest and the establishment of foreign banks.

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The second point is that funds are limited, and we can only consider mortgages that will be completed before 14th March.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tate & Lyle in £23m tidying-up disposals

Tate & Lyle is selling stakes in two foreign groups for \$37 million (£23 million). They came with Tate's purchase of US-based Staley but unlike Staley, which makes a sweetening agent, they did not fit Tate's core sugars and sweeteners base.

Tate's 25 per cent stake in San Francisco-based Genencor, which makes industrial enzymes, is being bought by a joint venture of Eastman Kodak, which already has a 25 per cent holding, and Cuhor, the Finnish sugar producer. Tate has varying stakes of up to 75 per cent in a group of companies, of which the main ones are Hendricks and Sommer of West Germany and Stapol of Switzerland. Coates Brothers and its parent Orkney group are buying the stakes.

German buy Avesco settles copyright case

Optical and Medical International, a technical services company, has bought Peters and Zahradsky of West Germany for DM14.4 million (£5.1 million) in cash. The purchase was made through Quantel Holding, its West German offshoot. P&Z is mainly engaged in the design and the stress analysis of components used in the car and aircraft industries. It is expected to show sales for 1989 of DM16 million.

Avesco, the USM-listed television services group, has settled for £1.6 million a legal action in copyright brought by Quantel, part of Carlton Communications, over paintbox programmes. Avesco had already made provisions of £2 million for effects of the action. Avesco, and its subsidiary, Microsystems, have undertaken to stop making and selling the Matisse paintbox programme in Britain.

Bass warning on rates

Bass plc's beer sales rose by 1.5 per cent in the first quarter. Mr Ian Prosser, chairman, told the annual meeting Bass' progress was satisfactory in the current year but gave a warning that if interest rates stayed at present levels "all consumer businesses will be affected".

He said "no decision had been made about how to send the company forward". He said it was possible to split the company in two - brewing and retailing - but "vertical integration was very useful in such a difficult business". The chairman said Bass had looked at splitting its shares to make them cheaper on the Stock Exchange but the complexities of the Holiday Inns purchase among other factors had halted consideration.

Adscene sees profit tumble Shares frozen at Yeoman

The Adscene local newspaper group saw pre-tax profits more than halved to £619,000 in the six months to December. Advertising revenue fell nearly 10 per cent. Turnover rose 13 per cent to £10.7 million, inclusive of the acquisitions. The interim dividend stays at 2p on 2.45p eps (5.4p). Adscene, quashed rumours of a takeover approach from Emap Publications.

CLF Yeoman, the Irish leasing company, was suspended yesterday following news that plans by the Luxembourg authorities to close a tax loophole could curb rapid expansion of the Irish leasing industry through Shannon International Finance and the Dublin International Financial Services Centre. Its shares were suspended at 135p, capitalizing the company at £73.7 million.

North of Scotland loss

Poor quoted sector returns hit North of Scotland Investment Trust and caused losses of £9,468 for the interim stage to October, against a £46,000 pre-tax profit. Disappointing investments included a 5 per cent stake in the Caird Group. Mr Andrew Lang, investment manager, says the holding has been "materially reduced".

The trust was also let down by a holding in the Richards textiles group. Mr Lang says results for the period also reflect the conservative approach to valuing unquoted investments. These comprise 85 per cent of North of Scotland's portfolio value. He says unquoted oil service companies in the Aberdeen area performed well and so he has every confidence of second-half profits. There is again no interim dividend.

Evered cuts preference share issue to £25m

Volatility in the bond markets has caused Evered to scale down the preference share issue listed to acquisitions.

Announcing the £141 million purchase a fortnight ago, Evered envisaged raising up to £30 million from a preference issue, but this has been cut to £25 million.

Mr John Ford, finance director, said that, while the convertible market was very much larger, the normal issue size was only about £25 million as there were only between 20 and 30 buyers.

"Last week was difficult for the whole bond market across the world," he explained.

When Evered raised £68 million in a rights issue in September, 71 per cent were left with the underwriters.

Subject to shareholders' approval, Evered will issue the preference shares at 100p. The coupon will be 11.25p net and the shares will be redeemable in 2005 at 100p, giving a gross redemption yield of 14.9 per cent.

Evered will use the proceeds to help pay for Civil and Marine Holdings, one of the largest suppliers of marine dredged aggregates in the south of England, and Millville, a limestone quarry near Washington, DC.

| WORLD MARKET INDICES | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Index | Value | Daily chg (%) | Yearly chg (%) | Daily chg (%) | Yearly chg (%) | Daily chg (%) | Yearly chg (%) | Daily chg (%) | Yearly chg (%) |
| The World (free) | 783.3 | -0.1 | 19.4 | 0.3 | 16.5 | 0.1 | 8.5 | | |
| EAFF (free) | 149.7 | -0.1 | 19.3 | 0.2 | 16.4 | 0.1 | 8.5 | | |
| Europe (free) | 1450.0 | -0.2 | 14.0 | -0.1 | 14.8 | 0.1 | 3.6 | | |
| Europe (free) | 149.2 | -0.2 | 13.8 | -0.2 | 14.7 | 0.1 | 3.4 | | |
| Europe (free) | 729.0 | 0.1 | 34.7 | -0.1 | 24.6 | 0.3 | 22.4 | | |
| Nth America | 156.6 | 0.1 | 35.2 | -0.4 | 24.8 | 0.3 | 22.9 | | |
| Nth America | 496.4 | -0.1 | 30.8 | 0.1 | 18.7 | 0.1 | 18.9 | | |
| Nordic | 1530.2 | 0.0 | 41.0 | -0.2 | 27.6 | 0.2 | 28.1 | | |
| Pacific (free) | 233.4 | -0.1 | 54.8 | -0.4 | 39.2 | 0.1 | 40.6 | | |
| Pacific (free) | 3633.4 | -0.3 | 4.7 | -0.1 | 10.2 | -0.1 | -4.9 | | |
| Far East | 5297.7 | -0.2 | 4.3 | -0.1 | 10.1 | 0.0 | -5.2 | | |
| Australia | 340.4 | -0.6 | 16.0 | -0.5 | 15.4 | -2.4 | 5.4 | | |
| Australia | 1635.0 | -0.6 | 14.0 | -1.0 | 11.7 | -0.4 | 12.4 | | |
| Belgium | 945.2 | -1.0 | 22.4 | -1.4 | 6.4 | -0.8 | 11.2 | | |
| Canada | 551.3 | -0.5 | 24.9 | -0.5 | 12.1 | -0.3 | 13.5 | | |
| Denmark | 1303.5 | 0.5 | 57.9 | 0.0 | 38.2 | 0.7 | 43.5 | | |
| Finland | 117.1 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.8 | -11.3 | 1.3 | -8.2 | | |
| France (free) | 152.3 | 0.9 | 27.3 | 0.7 | 11.7 | 1.1 | 15.7 | | |
| France | 755.0 | 0.2 | 40.5 | -0.3 | 22.3 | 0.4 | 27.6 | | |
| Germany | 903.4 | 1.1 | 58.8 | 0.7 | 39.0 | 1.4 | 44.3 | | |
| Hong Kong | 2115.7 | -0.6 | 10.5 | -0.3 | 0.4 | -0.3 | 0.4 | | |
| Italy | 380.0 | 0.1 | 29.7 | -0.4 | 14.5 | 0.3 | 17.8 | | |
| Japan | 5824.5 | -0.2 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 10.0 | 0.0 | -5.9 | | |
| Netherlands | 870.6 | 0.0 | 36.6 | -0.5 | 18.5 | 0.2 | 23.2 | | |
| New Zealand | 99.9 | -2.7 | 16.7 | -1.9 | 9.8 | -2.5 | 6.1 | | |
| Norway | 1417.0 | -0.1 | 70.1 | -0.2 | 55.1 | 0.1 | 54.6 | | |
| Norway (free) | 243.4 | -0.2 | 68.1 | -0.3 | 53.3 | 0.0 | 52.8 | | |
| Sing/Malay | 1988.2 | -1.4 | 56.7 | -1.0 | 37.8 | -1.2 | 42.4 | | |
| Spain | 216.6 | -0.4 | 9.2 | -0.4 | -2.7 | -0.2 | -0.8 | | |
| Sweden | 1680.9 | -0.4 | 39.6 | -0.5 | 29.0 | -0.2 | 26.9 | | |
| Switzerland | 234.9 | -0.8 | 49.4 | -0.8 | 38.0 | -0.5 | 35.7 | | |
| Switzerland (free) | 893.4 | 0.0 | 36.3 | -0.5 | 25.1 | 0.2 | 23.8 | | |
| UK | 684.7 | -0.1 | 25.4 | -0.1 | 25.4 | 0.1 | 13.9 | | |
| USA | 446.0 | 0.0 | 31.3 | 0.2 | 19.3 | 0.2 | 19.3 | | |

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

Making a will

Up to two-thirds of British people die without making a will, which can be costly for relatives they leave behind.

Details of one family who lost an £80,000 house are included in seven pages of Family Money on Saturday.

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times

WEEKDAYS SATURDAY

NAME

ADDRESS

John D Wood is over its profits rot

John D Wood, the London and country residential estate agency, is starting to look like a share over which the sign could go up "Des Res. Repair work done. Early appointment to view essential. Great potential".

The cracks which last year shattered its gloss and included a second-half loss of £178,000 - to knock 1989's total pre-tax profit down from £1.46 million to £257,000 - have been covered over with first-half profits this year.

For the six months ended October 31, pre-tax profits were £216,000 (excluding an exceptional £224,000 from the sale of a freehold interest in Lymington) on a £2.46 million turnover. In the immediately preceding six months, pre-tax losses were £178,000 on a £2.2 million turnover. In the first half of last year there were profits of £435,000 on a turnover of £2.99 million.

The group hopes to show "an encouraging result at the year end," and senses that property buyers and sellers are beginning to come out of the woodwork. That John Wood was able to turn previous six months losses into a first-half profit when the market was still dull owes much to the knife-wielding group did on costs. A more genuine improvement in its market would have a dramatic impact. Tight cost control remains the key.

Meanwhile, executives are planning a visit to Hong Kong

Acis Group

After the agonies at Saatchi, marketing services shares are hardly the flavour of the month. But even though Acis Group's rights issue fell victim to the market panic last October, its shares now trade on a mid-teens p/e ratio that Saatchi enjoyed in its better days.

Clearly, the market is impressed with the efforts of Mr Darryl Phillips, who is rapidly building the group after a successful career creating one of South Africa's largest advertising and marketing companies.

Mr Phillips steers away from the well-trodden beat favoured by bigger groups in the sector and says proudly that his advertising operations have no national accounts and are far less vulnerable to large-scale economic trends.

The story is the same for the other divisions. Hotel design works on long lead times and



Wood's joint chairman: George Pope and Ian Homersham.

the continuity sales operations are in small niche markets.

Acis, like WPP in its early days, grows by acquisition of able management which stays with Acis on an earn-out basis. For example, five companies were bought in the last quarter of 1989.

Organic growth was 68 per cent last year. Having doubled pre-tax profits to £7.4 million, Acis is set for £13 million in the current year on BZW forecasts and the historic p/e of 14.4 is set to fall to 11.

With no gearing, thanks to

Pavilion

Leisure

A sluggish commercial property market has slowed Pavilion Leisure's fast metamorphosis into a pure leisure concern. It has also not done much for the shares in this hotel, health clubs and the

atre group. They soared 44p to 177p when news came last April that Mr George Martin was taking over as chief executive.

Yesterday, they were unchanged at just 87p as the group more than doubled its pre-tax profits from £3.9 million to £8.22 million for the year to end-October and raised its total dividend to 4.5p (3p). Earnings per share surged from 5.47p to 12.9p.

But there was a below-the-line debit of £2.2 million relating to merger costs, which meant that retained profits were marginally down at £1.33 million. Pavilion, which paid £67 million for the much larger Parkdale property and leisure group last June, has taken longer than expected with its property disposals.

It was hoped that Pavilion, which sold £28 million worth of property before its October year-end, would have sold the rest by now.

But three properties remain and half of the £24 million move to be raised will not come through until later this year. Current-year profit expectations are about £10 million, putting Pavilion on a prospective earnings multiple of roughly 6.5 times.

Worth holding for the long-term.

Courts, the furniture retailer, is finding business more profitable in Jamaica, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia than in Maidstone, Northampton and Reading - an indication of how bad life is for furniture retailers in Britain.

Like-for-like, sales in Britain are down 15 per cent in the six months to September, less than the industry average but still frighteningly bad. Overseas, however, turnover rose 33.4 per cent.

Courts has several advantages. It has a strong asset base with freehold property - accounting for 60 per cent of retail outlets, conservative accounting policies and a strong business overseas accounting for more than 60 per cent of sales.

In the six months to September, pre-tax profits fell from £4.3 million to £3.1 million on sales of £68.9 million up from £65.1 million. Earnings per share fell from 10.5p to 7.95p and the dividend is unchanged at 1.83p.

Property profits account for £2.27 million compared with £320,000 last time and the interest charge has risen from £1.93 million to £3.06 million.

At 168p, down 2p, Courts has a prospective p/e ratio of 10.5 assuming profits of £7.5 million for the full year. Net asset value per share is 320p. While its gearing ratio at 44 per cent may be lower than some, events elsewhere demonstrate this is no time to be buying furniture retailers, especially with many potential customers facing a hike in their mortgage payments.

Courts, the furniture retailer, is finding business more profitable in Jamaica, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia than in Maidstone, Northampton and Reading - an indication of how bad life is for furniture retailers in Britain.

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Western Europe 'provides greatest export potential'

By Colin Narborough
Economics Correspondent

Western Europe offers the greatest unexploited potential for British exporters, especially companies new to the export business, according to Sir James Clesmson, chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board.

He sees West Germany, the region's economic superpower, fast catching up the United States as Britain's biggest export market.

On present trends, and granted the huge boost that the opening up of Eastern Europe is expected to give it, West Germany could well move into the lead this year.

The latest trade figures show that British exports to West Germany reached £10.3 billion in the first 11 months of last year. Exports to the US were £10.9 billion in that period.



Sir James Clesmson: aim is to be able to change quickly

listed as top priority, followed by the Pacific Rim territories, such as Japan, Taiwan and Hong Kong, now the fastest-growing markets. More resources will be devoted to export promotion in both

devoted to this region are also set to stay unchanged. Sir James said that it was early days for assessing the potential of the Eastern European markets, but BOTB plans were not set in concrete and the intention was to be able to change quickly.

Eastern Europe was a market for exporters able to take a long view and he expected West Germany to scoop up a lot of the business, but British exporters should seek a "fair share" of the markets.

"We must be sure not to lose out on our opportunities," he said.

In keeping with the Government policy of seeking "value for money", the board sees no case for using large portions of the limited funds available to export promotion on markets which do not yield business. It is downgrading Latin America and Black Africa.

The board was set up in 1972 to provide advice and direct the official export promotion programme. The net cost of its services this year is expected to be £138 million.

It aims to focus support on small and medium firms inexperienced in exporting, firms trying to enter difficult markets, and larger firms seeking major project business.

Only one bid for HK site

From Lulu Yu, Hong Kong

The first government auction of the year started slowly when a 56,000 sq ft warehouse site attracted only one bidder - and a disappointing HK\$200 million (£15.38 million).

Kingsgrange quits two US ventures

By Melinda Wittstock

Kingsgrange, the Potter & Moore toiletries manufacturer which last year fell into a £2 million loss, is writing off its 50 per cent stake in loss-making Kingsgrange America Inc. and selling its troubled US Gilchrist & Soames offshoot to management for £350,000, the value of its net assets.

Pre-tax profits fell from £542,000 to £309,000 for the six months to end-October. It said US expansion strategy had been flawed from the start and blamed the US losses at Kingsgrange America on "bad management".

Kingsgrange has written off £450,000 as an extraordinary item in the interim results as a provision against its investment in Kingsgrange America, 50 per cent-owned but controlled by Mr Lytle Blair and Mr Robert Foster, two Kingsgrange directors that have now resigned from the main board.

Kingsgrange will no longer have any exposure to the US

Fiat profit climbs to £2,500m

From A Correspondent

The Fiat Group, with almost monotonous predictability, has again broken all records in sales and profits.

Yesterday, Signor Giovanni Agnelli, chairman of Fiat SpA, parent company of the group that controls the Turin carmaker, told the board that sales for 1989 had jumped to \$2,200 billion (£1,261 million), up in line terms by 18 per cent on 1988, a growth in real terms of about 12 per cent. Operating profits grew even more, by 29 per cent to about \$500 billion (£2,500 million), more than 9 per cent of sales.

The Fiat SpA chairman said the workforce was up by 12,000, to 289,700 for Fiat's various sectors.

Car sector sales grew in 1989 by almost 11 per cent over 1988.

In a letter to shareholders, Signor Agnelli said that the company's results had been obtained in a favourable world situation, with average growth of about 3.5 per cent.

The site in Hung Hom, an industrial district of Kowloon, was expected to fetch at least HK\$250 million but was clinched by Mr Thomas Lau, who runs the Evergo property and investment companies.

The scene was far from that of a recent land auction which saw property companies clamour for a residential site which fetched more than HK\$1 billion - well above expectations - on December 28.

Mr Tim Mills, the government land agent, said the auction marked the beginning of a year of consolidation. Auction prices have slipped by as much as 30 per cent below expectation. Industrial sites were the hardest hit, with prices down markedly in the last quarter of 1989.

Mr Whitehead said Kingsgrange was pulling out of the loss-making US Gilchrist & Soames because it takes "a disproportionate amount of UK management time".

In the UK, turnover is up by 14 per cent to £11.5 million if £2.8 million of US sales are stripped out of last year's interim figures.

Mr Whitehead said the core Jean Sorelle business is picking up, though £1 million of cost-cutting measures, including about 40 job losses, have not yet filtered through to profits.

There is no interim dividend, and future payments will depend on "sustained recovery," Mr Whitehead said the group would show a small full-year profit.

Court agrees to restrain creditors

Bond blocks US actions on breweries

From David Tweed, Sydney

Mr Alan Bond's Bond Group has won an order restraining its United States creditors from taking separate court action to liquidate its Australian breweries.

The holders of \$510 million worth of Bond Brewery debentures were successful on Tuesday in an attempt to become party to proceedings in the Victorian Supreme Court, which is hearing an application to overturn the appointment of receivers and managers to Bond Brewing.

The US creditors on Tuesday also signalled their intention to apply, probably in the Australian Capital Territory, to have Bond Brewing wound up if the

present Bond Brewing receivers were dismissed by the Victorian court.

The Western Australian injunction, ordered by Commissioner White in the Supreme Court of Western Australia, prevents any such wind-up action until the matter has a full hearing in Perth. In a one-sentence judgement, he ruled that restraint orders be served on the United States Trust Co. of New York, as trustee for debenture holders, and on individual US debenture holders.

Mr Alec Chernov, QC, for Bond Group, argued that the competing jurisdictions of Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and New York State, were not as significant as Western

Australia, which was the "brain and nerve centre" for Bond Brewing and the place where most damage would be suffered by the company.

Bond Corp is also seeking to have the case in the Victorian Supreme Court transferred to the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

In the Victorian Supreme Court yesterday, counsel for the National Australia Bank - leader of the bank syndicate that applied on December 29 for a receiver to be appointed to Bond Brewing - argued that the application was "justifiably made". Mr Sek Hulme, QC, said the presence of a receiver had stopped a "scramble for assets".

Mainmet in rescue talks after losses

By Jeremy Andrews

Mainmet Holdings, a Bradford company which supplies heat measurement meters for local authority housing schemes, is in talks with a possible bidder, as yet unnamed, following the news that it made pre-tax losses of more than £650,000 in the six months to November.

Mainmet also gave a warning that there had been a significant deterioration in its financial position and that it was relying on the continued support of its bankers.

A rescue bid would be at "a nominal value" rather than the 60p at which the ordinary shares were suspended last Friday. The mostly likely rescuer is ISS, the Danish company whose meters Mainmet has supplied since its shares were floated on the USM in 1983. Last March, ISS took an 11 per cent stake in

Mainmet by selling it a small business making energy controllers.

Meggit also had an 8 per cent stake at one stage, though this has since been reduced.

The loss expected for the first half is equivalent to all the pre-tax profits, less losses, since it came to the market, given that Mainmet now believes the profits for 1989-90 were overstated by £240,000.

BWD Rensburg, Mainmet's broker, had been forecasting full-year profits of £650,000 before the shares were suspended. The only offsetting factor is a claim for £233,000 for termination of service contracts, which arose from the decision by one of its customers to demolish a housing estate.

However, because of the poor trading results, Mainmet now faces cash flow problems.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

| LONDON TRADED OPTIONS | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Index | Value | Daily chg (%) | Yearly chg (%) | Daily chg (%) | Yearly chg (%) | Daily chg (%) | Yearly chg (%) | Daily chg (%) | Yearly chg (%) |
| FT-100 | 2115.7 | -0.6 | 10.5 | -0.3 | 0.4 | -0.3 | 0.4 | | |
| FT-100 | 380.0 | 0.1 | 29.7 | -0.4 | 14.5 | 0.3 | 17.8 | | |
| Japan | 5824.5 | -0.2 | 3.6 | 0.0 | 10.0 | 0.0 | -5.9 | | |
| Netherlands | 870.6 | 0.0 | 36.6 | -0.5 | 18.5 | 0.2 | 23.2 | | |
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| Switzerland | 234.9 | -0.8 | 49.4 | -0.8 | 38.0 | -0.5 | 35.7 | | |
| Switzerland (free) | 893.4 | 0.0 | 36.3 | -0.5 | 25.1 | 0.2 | 23.8 | | |
| UK | 684.7 | -0.1 | 25.4 | -0.1 | 25.4 | 0.1 | 13.9 | | |
| USA | 446.0 | 0.0 | 31.3 | 0.2 | 19.3 | 0.2 | 19.3 | | |

MMC chief sees risk in wider role for Brussels

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

The European Commission may face problems over resources and lack of experience when it takes on wider powers to scrutinize the effect on competition of company mergers, the chairman of Britain's competition watchdog said yesterday.

Mr Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), which will see a proportion of bigger mergers involving British companies being dealt with in Brussels from October, said that the problems could mean that decisions on mergers would be slow.

Mr Lipworth also signalled the possibility of a general

investigation of high-leverage "junk bond" bids to establish rules on how much leverage was acceptable.

The reaction to the European Commission's new powers is the strongest yet from the MMC and was made in its review of the past year.

In it, Mr Lipworth says: "My main reservations are whether the European Commission will have the resources and the institutional experience of the types of issue that exist in a hostile takeover to do the job speedily, as well as thoroughly and fairly."

He has made clear before that he would have liked much higher financial thresh-

olds before cases went to Brussels. That, he argued, would have avoided the Commission taking on too many cases too quickly while building up its resources.

Mr Lipworth suggests a specialist unit be set up in the Commission to deal exclusively with merger-vesting.

He said: "The timescale and, very often, the intensity of these cases, as well as their effects, do warrant special treatment."

The European Commission's new powers will be over large, cross-border mergers that have a Europe-wide dimension.

About 40 to 50 mergers a year are expected to be dealt with by Brussels, of which 10 to 15 would have a British element.

Under the current system, only a few of these would be referred to the Monopolies Commission, since only about 2 to 3 per cent of notified mergers are normally referred for investigation.

Mr Lipworth also suggested that if the effects of a merger were predominantly to be felt in one member country, the Commission should consider using the services of that nation's competition body for part of the investigation to make more efficient use of resources.

Clowes is facing 29 new charges

Mr Peter Clowes, former head of the Barlow Clowes Fund Management Company, faced 29 new charges yesterday when he appeared in court in connection with the £180 million failure of the business.

He is accused of 46 offences relating to the management and the collapse of the company in June 1988.

Clowes appeared at Guildhall magistrates' court, in the City of London, with six other men, who now face a total of 113 charges. They were all remanded until March 13 on bail totalling £2.4 million.

Mr Peter Rook, for the Serious Fraud Office, said the case was expected to be transferred at the next hearing to the Central Criminal Court for pre-trial hearings.

Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

There were 38 new charges yesterday. They allege fraud, theft and deception.

The accused are Peter Clowes, aged 46, of Whiteley Green, Wiltshire, who was a former chairman of Barlow Clowes's parent company, James Ferguson Holdings; Guy von Cramer, aged 27, a former chief executive of Fergusons, who lives in Yorkshire; Christopher Newman, aged 34, a former finance director of Barlow Clowes, who lives in Suffolk; Peter Naylor, aged 33, a computer consultant from Guildford, Surrey; Ian Crabtree, aged 35, an accountant of Bramhall, Stockport, Greater Manchester; and James Levy, aged 39, a lawyer, of Gibraltar.

The court reduced Levy's bail from £450,000 to £250,000.

Saur to join Welsh in waste venture

By Neil Bennett

Welsh Water is setting up a joint waste disposal company with Saur, the French water group.

The announcement marks Saur's second assault on Britain's £2.5 billion "waste management industry" this month. Two weeks ago, it set up Stawell Environmental Services with Southern Water.

Welsh and Saur are becoming 50-50 partners in Cambrian Environmental Services. So far, it has been given permission to tender for two contracts in Cornwall and Lancashire.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Riddle of the minister who gagged himself

On a cold Monday morning, in a court in Illinois, information of crucial importance to policyholders of Eagle Star Insurance was placed before the United States authorities. The information, carried in later editions of *The Times* yesterday, was that our own Department of Trade and Industry had served a preliminary notice on Hoyle, the company attempting to take over BAT Industries, of which Eagle Star is a part, that Hoyle may not be fit and proper to own an insurance company.

The DTI said nothing of this to those most intimately concerned, the policyholders of Eagle Star, who have entrusted their pensions, savings, mortgages and financial futures with the company.

Mr John Redwood, the Minister for Corporate Affairs, was attempting to gloss over this omission yesterday, assuring the world that no final decision had been taken and that Hoyle would still have to jump through the DTI's regulatory hoops if ever it rebids.

Yet despite the liberal application of ministerial fudge, it is clear from the official correspondence at the time — last September — that the Department of Trade and Industry was treating the highly leveraged Hoyle bid as a matter deserving of special treatment.

Under normal circumstances, the regulatory authorities at the DTI can do three things when a change of control at an insurance company is mooted. They can object immediately; do nothing, in which case approval is taken as read; or they can lodge a notice of preliminary objection.

The approval process normally takes three months. If the minister is finally to object to the proposed new controllers of an insurance company are not fit and proper persons, he is obliged to lodge the preliminary notices early enough for the bidders to have a full two months to deal with the problems.

Not only did the department take that first step towards refusal — the lodging of the preliminary notices — it also took the highly unusual step of preparing a draft press notice.

One entirely plausible explanation of this unorthodox sequence of events was that the department, and indeed ministers in other areas of Government, were highly concerned at the implication of massive and highly leveraged bids, such as Hoyle's, for the future of British industry.

In the event, the press notice was not issued and Eagle Star policyholders were kept in ignorance of the preliminary notices of objection. The circumstances of this are not entirely clear. The department says that it was because the bid lapsed. Hoyle suggests that it persuaded the department against the issue of a press notice.

In the light of the subsequent spectacular problems with leveraged deals — Campeau, Magnel, Lowndes Queensway and MFI are the best known — policyholders might have been grateful at the time for some ministerial guidance. In entirely different circumstances, victims of Barlow Clowes suffered from the sound of silence in Whitehall. It is surely an odd decision for Mr Ridley, the Secretary of State, to have gagged himself.

Taxing test for the Budget

Budget tips were in short supply in the Chancellor's speech during the autumn statement debate yesterday. But in a broad sense he set the scene.

This year's Budget surplus, John Major confirmed, will turn out somewhat lower than the revised forecast of £12.5 billion in the autumn statement and substantially below the £14 billion originally forecast in last year's Budget.

Inevitably this carries implications for next year's arithmetic. The likelihood must be that instead of looking at a surplus of £11 billion, including a fiscal adjustment of £1 billion, the outlook on unchanged policies is for less. Already written into the fiscal sums is a full-year's cost of the 1989 national insurance reform (an extra £1.8 billion) and the initial cost of independent taxation (£500 million).

The changed fiscal outlook is not surprising, given the slowdown in the economy. Rapid economic growth boosts tax revenue and slows the growth in social security costs tending to swell

the Budget surplus. Slower economic growth, conversely, tends to shrink it. But Mr Major will want to err on the side of caution in setting the public sector debt repayment for 1990-91. If he cannot afford to be prudent at this stage in the Parliament with inflation so clearly enemy number one then he never will be.

He certainly gave every indication of prudence yesterday. Interest rates, he emphasized again, would stay high for some time to come. Fiscal policy would remain tight in order to buttress a firm monetary policy.

This is all sound stuff, but markets will want to see the colour of the Chancellor's money. The fact is that since Mr Major became Chancellor sterling has fallen sharply (even if it has recovered a little) while growth in the money supply shows no sign of slowing.

The best available test of the Budget will be whether the Chancellor makes any net cuts in taxes. He will be wise to forswear them this time round, and even to consider net tax increases.

Pavilion to seek £20m expansion

By Melinda Wittstock

Pavilion Leisure, Mr George Martin's hotel, health club and theatre group presently shedding properties acquired with last June's £67 million acquisition of Parkdale, plans to spend £20 million more this year on acquisitions to buoy its leisure interests.

Mr Martin said Pavilion is to buy 10 to 12 private health clubs in the current year and would spend £7 million adding extensions and leisure facilities to its growing number of country hotels, which include the Select Country Hotels.

Pavilion, which more than doubled its pre-tax profits from £3.9 million to £8.22 million for the year to end-October, also said it plans to bid for a large number of local authority leisure facilities, 2,600 of which come up for tender in 1991.

Mr Martin said Pavilion will double the number of its hotel rooms from 500, representing only 0.1 per cent of the British market, in the next 12 to 18 months.

Pavilion, which raised £28 million from property disposals before its October year-end, expects to raise £24 million more this year, which will be reinvested through capital expenditure and acquisitions. Gearing at the year end was 55 per cent which will be maintained.

Earnings per share rose from 5.47p to 12.9p, and the total dividend is 4.5p (3p).

Aukett builds bridges



Looking east: Michael Aukett, outside an Aukett-designed building in Slough, Berkshire

By Our City Staff

Aukett Associates, the integrated architectural and building design group, is hoping to win commissions in central and eastern Europe and so take advantage of the economic and social changes taking place.

Mr Michael Aukett, chief executive, says the group has been helped by the DTI and Foreign Office with contacts, and has earmarked Hungary for potential developments.

Aukett hopes to be involved in hotel/retail complexes for western multi-nationals, and group executives will shortly visit Prague and possibly Poland. It is also aiming to widen its European connections after the opening of the first of its European offices in Geneva last October.

Aukett, whose shares were placed at 95p last February, reports a pre-tax profit of £2.3 million compared with a pre-tax profit of £1.73 million for the year ended September 30 on

turnover of £11.5 million (£9.12 million). The value of work done in the year totalled £13 million (£9.3 million).

A final dividend of 2.75p, payable March 8, makes 4p for the year compared with a single payment of 3p previously.

The directors said there had been an encouraging start to the current financial year, although the year would be challenging.

The shares traded at 121p, unchanged, yesterday.

Wiggins Group makes loss of £1.33m

By Our City Staff

Wiggins Group, the property developer and housebuilder with significant exposure to the London Docklands, has fallen into a pre-tax loss of £1.33 million for the six months to end-September after paying an interest bill of £1.54 million.

The company blames the loss on high interest rates and stronger seasonal demand for its tax-based Docklands investment properties in the second half. The result was foreshadowed by its Decem-

ber warning that profits would be "substantially below" last year's interim £3.8 million.

Shareholders, who received a 3p interim dividend last year, will not be given a payout this year, given "uncertainty about the outcome for the full year."

Wiggins, which normally reports its interims in November, has also reported a loss per share of 8.5p against earnings per share of 19.1p. But unlike the year before, the results do not include a

contribution from the motor division, which was sold last year for £7.5 million to Williams Holdings.

Mr Stephen Haykan, the chairman and chief executive, said interest in properties was still high, but would-be buyers were struggling to sell their existing properties.

Wiggins, which is developing a 347-room four-star hotel in London's Enterprise Zone beside Olympia & York's Canary Wharf development, hopes the site will be sold this

financial year for not less than the desired £55 million. "There is a buyer in the wings," he said.

Mr Haykan said the group's South Quay business apartments development continues to attract prospective buyers. Wiggins, which earlier sold 120 apartments, has exchanged contracts on 30 more units having a book value of £9 million. A further £4 million of reservations have been taken. It plans to develop 215 more units.

Antique load woe

Terry "Twiggy" Buckland, one of the biggest men in the stock market — he claims to stand 6ft 7ins in his bare feet — was inundated with telephone calls from market-makers yesterday afternoon, urging him to buy shares in Courts (Furnishers), and Lowndes Queensway. Given his job as the dealing director for Phillips & Drew Fund Management, the calls in themselves were not unusual, but the choice of stocks quite clearly was. Their explanation, I can reveal, lies in an incident which took place in the most prestigious in-house dining room at Warburg Securities, where Buckland had lunched a few hours earlier. Clearly ill at ease among the firm's impressive array of antique furniture, Buckland, who assures me that he weighs in at just 16½ stones, eventually relaxed, leant back and promptly broke a highly valuable Louis XV chair. "To make matters worse," he says, "the last time I lunched there, about a year ago, exactly the same thing happened. But the most embarrassing moment was when the butler suddenly appeared, just as I was trying to mend it, to disabundantly suggest that he remove it."

Beneluxury

There really is no such thing as a free lunch. Baron Vaes, who is chairman of the Benelux Chamber of Commerce in the UK, has been sending out invitations to a St Valentine's Day lunch,

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Go-karting getaway

Several of the 30 or so smartly-dressed young market-makers who were invited to a disused bus station in Hackney on Monday by First Equity, the inter-dealer broker, to race around in go-karts, eventually went home in a considerable state of disarray after a thoroughly enjoyable evening. For, having changed

into jeans and overalls for the sporting activities, when they returned to the changing room, they discovered, to their horror, that a burglar had beaten them to it. Several pin-striped jackets, Hermes ties and pairs of shoes were stolen. "But nobody had to go home in their boxer shorts," said Simon Cowan of First Equity.

Friend and foe

Ian Throssell, a specialist Unlisted Securities Market dealer at Winterlood Securities, has had his hat trick of wins in the *USM Magazine's* annual quiz interrupted by an old friend and former colleague, Throssell, who has won the difficult contest in each of the past three years, was pipped to the post this year, in a tie-break, by Tony Jarman, aged 25, a market-maker with County NatWest WoodMac, the broker. He is also a specialist in USM stocks and smaller companies.

"There is some friendly rivalry between us, but I wouldn't wish my firm any harm because they are all my old mates," says Jarman, who once worked for Bisgood Bishop, the group from which Winterlood traces its origins. He wins a total of 40 prizes, ranging from a keg of beer to a filofax and lingerie, all donated by USM firms.

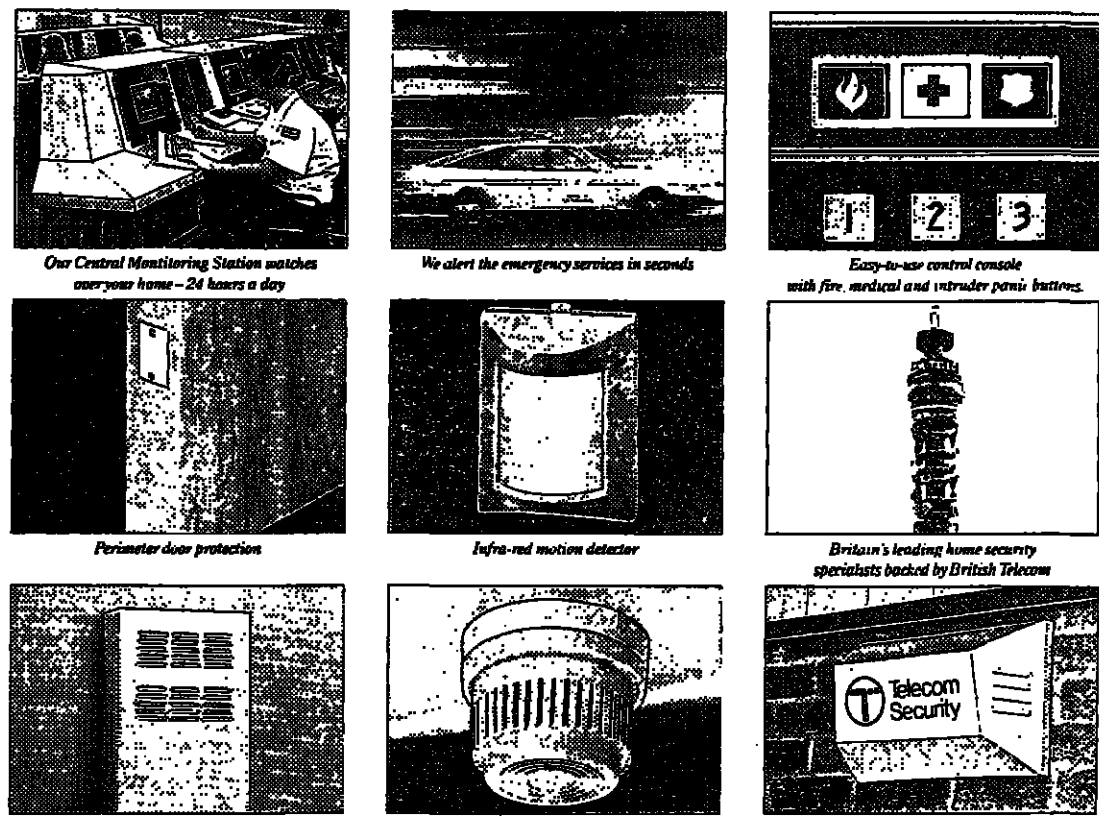
New brand for Buchan

Ed Buchan, one of the key figures in Hill Samuel's smaller companies team, is at last following in the footsteps of his literary ancestors — his first efforts have been published this week. For Buchan, whose grandfather, John Buchan, wrote *The 39 Steps*, has written a chapter on "the impact of brand valuations on stock market ratings" in *Brand Valuation: A True and Fair View* — just published by Interbrand, the organization which pioneered the methodology for such valuations.

"It's very difficult to draw a conclusion," he said of his chosen subject matter. "But it is clear that the market is not prepared to give full credit to companies for the value of their brands — not even in a takeover situation." He admits that the fact he has never put pen to paper before has categorized him as one of the black sheep of his family. He said: "Of my eight brothers and sisters, five of them write professionally. My brother Jamie is the *Financial Times* correspondent in New York." And Buchan admits that he too has greater literary aspirations than later brand's book. "I have promised my family that when I do eventually write a novel, it will be the honest, racist thing they have ever read."

● A brutally frank notice in a failing boutique in Hampstead village declares: "Closing down due to high interest rates, high business rates, high staff wages... and no customers."

Carol Leonard



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| No. | Company | Group | Gain or Loss |
|-----|--------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Ray Clomp Leathers | Oil/Gas | |
| 2 | Raymond | Property | |
| 3 | BICC (Gen) | Electricals | |
| 4 | Dalrymple | Paper/Print/Adv | |
| 5 | Castles | Building/Roads | |
| 6 | Castles | Banking/Discount | |
| 7 | Furness (as) | Electricals | |
| 8 | Baroness Colour | Chemicals/Plas | |
| 9 | Nobis Co | Industrials L-R | |
| 10 | Chaffery-Schw (as) | Food | |
| 11 | ERM (as) | Food | |
| 12 | Comit | Industrials A-D | |
| 13 | Coastal | Building/Roads | |
| 14 | Proper | Property | |
| 15 | GKN (as) | Industrials E-K | |
| 16 | Colson | Industrials A-D | |
| 17 | Granada (as) | Industrials E-K | |
| 18 | Alfred-Lyon (as) | Banking | |
| 19 | Park Foods | Food | |
| 20 | Unilever (as) | Industrials S-Z | |
| 21 | Hardy O & G | Oil/Gas | |
| 22 | Chemist | Industrials A-D | |
| 23 | Dalrymple (as) | Food | |
| 24 | Trinity Int | Newspapers/Pub | |
| 25 | Kidwell Brown | Banking/Discount | |
| 26 | Leahurst Howarth | Shoes/Leather | |
| 27 | Moss Bros | Drumery/Stores | |
| 28 | Thatcher P (as) | Hotel/Caterers | |
| 29 | Farnell Elect | Electricals | |
| 30 | Delta | Electricals | |
| 31 | Fosco | Chemicals/Plas | |
| 32 | Land | Industrials L-R | |
| 33 | Niles Foods (as) | Food | |
| 34 | Roe & N (as) | Drumery/Stores | |
| 35 | T & N (as) | Industrials S-Z | |
| 36 | Unilever (as) | Oil/Gas | |
| 37 | Adco | Electricals | |
| 38 | Amersham | Chemicals/Plas | |
| 39 | Cambridge Elec | Electricals | |
| 40 | Ryl Bt Scot (as) | Banking/Discount | |
| 41 | Low Int | Industrials L-R | |
| 42 | Croft | Chemicals/Plas | |
| 43 | Red Bros | Building/Roads | |
| 44 | RMC Co (as) | Building/Roads | |

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Weekly Total |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| | | | | | | |

BRITISH FUNDS

| High | Low | Back | Price | Change | % | Gain |
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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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INDEX-LINKED

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BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Support at lower levels

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began January 15. Dealings end January 26. \$Contango day January 29. Settlement day February 5.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.
(VOLUMES: PAGE 28).

| 1989/90 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | % | PE |
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BREWERIES

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BUILDING, ROADS

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| 1989/90 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | % | PE |
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FINANCE, LAND

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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

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FOODS

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Queen's Bench Division

No immunity for naval inquiry report Mother was victim of discrimination

Barrett v Ministry of Defence

Before Mr Justice Popplewell

[Judgment January 18]

A plaintiff was not entitled, prior to disclosure of pleadings, to discovery of the report of a naval board of inquiry into her husband's death. There was ample other evidence on which she could base her statement of claim and discovery before pleadings was wholly unnecessary.

The Crown's contention that the board of inquiry report should enjoy public interest immunity because of the possibility of discovery of proceedings in civil proceedings would affect the candour of witnesses at future inquiries was rejected.

The absence of confidentiality for witnesses would not affect the proceedings or the morale, discipline or safety of service personnel.

Mr Justice Popplewell said in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment in an appeal in chambers by the Ministry of Defence from an order of Master Lubbock on February 22, 1989.

The order, pursuant to section 33(2) of the Supreme Court Act 1981 and Order 24, rule 7(A) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, was that the Ministry should give inspection of the report to solicitors acting for Mrs Dawn Barrett, the widow of Terence Barrett, but that the Ministry should be allowed to cover up such portions of the report as might be injurious to the public interest.

Order 24, rule 7(A) provides: "(1) An application for an order under section 33(2) of the [1981] Act for the disclosure of documents before the commencement of proceedings shall be made by originating summons and the person applying must state the grounds on which it is alleged that the applicant and the person against whom the order is sought shall be made defendant to the summons.

"(3) A summons... shall be supported by an affidavit which must— (a) in the case of a summons under paragraph (1) state the grounds on which it is alleged that the applicant and the person against whom the order is sought shall be made defendant to the summons.

Christy Hunt plc v Davis and Another Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor [Judgment January 11]

A totally relaxed approach to complying with court orders would not go unmarked by the disapproval of the court.

Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, so stated in the Chancery Division when refusing a motion to strike out the defence in an action by Christy Hunt plc against Mr and Mrs Davis and Howard White but only on condition that an immediate payment was made by the defendants to the plaintiff.

Christy Hunt plc, to cover any costs unnecessarily thrown away.

Mr Jonathan Crystal for Christy Hunt; Mr George Leggett for Mr Davis and Mr White.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that this was a deplorable case in which despite three extensions of time the defendants had still only managed to serve a defence which was an attempt to delay the trial.

He found it extremely strange that even now there was no evidence from the defendants of any kind to explain those repeated failures. That was not acceptable conduct in this day and age.

He would therefore seek to put the plaintiff as far as possible in the position it would have been in if the previous orders had been properly complied with.

Therefore, he would allow the defence and counterclaim served out of time to stand as a valid defence and counterclaim but only if by 4.00pm on the following day the defendants paid the plaintiff £750 on account of the costs incurred since the service of the statement of claim.

Whether it was the lay client or the lawyer who should pay those costs his Lordship could not say as nobody had chosen to appear before him before the trial. But if the delays were the lawyer's failure he saw no reason why the lay client should pay.

Solicitors: G. Lebor & Co; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

order is sought are likely to be parties to subsequent proceedings in the High Court in which a claim for personal injuries is made, or (b) in any documents in respect of which the order is sought and show, if practicable by reference to any pleading served or intended to be served in the proceedings, that the documents are relevant to an issue arising or likely to arise out of a claim for personal injuries made or likely to be made in the proceedings, and that the person against whom the order is sought is likely to have or have had them in his possession, custody or power.

"(7) In this rule 'a claim for personal injuries' means a claim in respect of personal injuries to a person or in respect of a person's death."

Mr Geoffrey Nice for Mrs Barrett; Mr John Laws for the Ministry.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said the dead man was a naval airman stationed at Barfleur in northern Norway. On January 22, 1988, which was his thirtieth birthday, he had a great deal to drink, became unconscious and died in the early hours of the following morning.

A board of inquiry was held, but its 260-page report was not disclosed by the defendants, although the plaintiff was supplied with a summary setting out the findings of fact, the conclusions of the board and its recommendations.

The plaintiff contended that in order that the matter could be properly pleaded it was necessary to have the full report of the board of inquiry disclosed by the defendants, in breach of the Bar's Code of Conduct which required him not to make any allegation not supported by his instructions.

In his Lordship's view, Order 24, rule 7(A) was to be approached in a liberal and not in a restricted way. The plaintiff was not on a "fishing expedition".

The defendant had conceded that excessive drinking was allowed on the Barfleur station, that it had taken no steps to warn Mr Barrett about his drinking or to curb his drinking or that the station was unsupervised and there was no medical cover; and that no instructions were given as to how to deal with someone who did have too much to drink.

In addition, the commanding officer of the station had been court-martialled and pleaded guilty to failing negligently to discourage drunkenness.

Discovery at this stage was wholly unnecessary for the purpose either of enabling the plaintiff properly to plead her case or deciding whether she could properly pursue her claim.

Although that was strictly the end of the appeal, his Lordship went on to consider the issue of public interest immunity.

As Mr Laws had submitted, the Crown was under a duty to refuse to disclose in cases where the need for public interest immunity arose. The court was under a duty of its own to take the point where it detected the need for such immunity to be claimed.

The minister's certificate was not conclusive although great heed would be paid to it by the court, particularly where the minister was qualified to form a view where the court was not.

In ordinary cases the public interest immunity claim was to be dealt with in two stages: first, the court considered whether the claim was made out, and second, if it was made out, to consider whether the document should nevertheless be disclosed in the particular case because of the public interest in withholding disclosure was outweighed by a greater public interest in securing justice.

In this case there was a certificate from the minister which stated that the factors being considered, particularly having consulted his military advisers, were: (a) the evidence had been given in confidence; (b) there was a high need for secrecy among those given evidence; (c) the rules applied to a small

body of people who were in a disciplined hierarchy and (d) production of the document would undermine the efficiency of the Armed Service and the safety of its personnel.

His Lordship did not accept the suggestion that a witness's candour before a board of inquiry would be affected by the possibility that the report might be admissible in some subsequent civil proceedings.

His view was fortified by *dicta* of the House of Lords in *Conway v Rimmer* (1968) AC 910 per Lord Reid at pp941A and 952B; Lord Morris of Borth-y-Gest at pp957C; Lord Pearce at pp948F and Lord Upjohn at pp955; and *Lewis v The Home Department* (1973) AC 388, 413 and *Burnham Oil v Bank of England* (1980) AC 1090 per Lord Wilberforce at p112E and Lord Keith of Kinkaid at p1132.

His Lordship was not persuaded that there was any to be less courage in inquiries because there might subsequently be civil litigation.

No one had ever considered that the giving of evidence at an inquiry, a magistrate's court or a court-martial inhibited a witness.

It was difficult to see the logic behind the suggestion that only if the matter was treated in confidence would witnesses freely and frankly give evidence on an equal basis.

His Lordship entirely rejected the contention that unless board of inquiry proceedings were privileged there would be a lack of candour. Nor did he agree that the absence of confidentiality would in some way affect the proceedings nor that it was likely to affect in the slightest morale or the discipline or the safety of those in the service.

There was no reason in logic or authority which the rules required to be published or that the duty should differ in relation to an application for discovery pre-statement of claim or post-statement of claim.

Solicitors: Stewart; Treasury Solicitor.

Training Commission v Jackson

Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr R. H. Phipps and Mr G. H. Wright

[Judgment January 22]

A married woman living with her husband and their two young children who had been away from work for over two years because of family circumstances was not unlawfully discriminated against on the ground of her marital status when she was refused the child-care payment given under the Employment Training Scheme, because of the requirement imposed by the Training Commission that only a lone parent was entitled to the payment.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal from a decision of a Bedford industrial tribunal in January 1989 that the applicant, Mrs Kay Jackson, had been unlawfully discriminated against by the Training Commission by reason of her marital status within the meaning of section 2(1)(b) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The Training Commission had appealed on the ground that the industrial tribunal ought to have found that the discrimination was justified within the meaning of section 2(1)(b)(ii).

It was difficult to see the logic behind the suggestion that only if the matter was treated in confidence would witnesses freely and frankly give evidence on an equal basis.

His Lordship entirely rejected the contention that unless board of inquiry proceedings were privileged there would be a lack of candour. Nor did he agree that the absence of confidentiality would in some way affect the proceedings nor that it was likely to affect in the slightest morale or the discipline or the safety of those in the service.

There was no reason in logic or authority which the rules required to be published or that the duty should differ in relation to an application for discovery pre-statement of claim or post-statement of claim.

Solicitors: Stewart; Treasury Solicitor.

Disbro Ltd v Hore and Others

Before Mr Justice Wood, Mr J. A. Powell and Mr E. A. Webb

[Judgment January 22]

When considering a claim for equality of pay based on work of equal value, an industrial tribunal was entitled to hear evidence of a job evaluation study undertaken by the employers after the commencement of the proceedings provided it related to facts and circumstances existing at the time when the proceedings were initiated.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal from a decision of an industrial tribunal sitting at Liverpool in October 1988, that the employers had failed to show that the variation between the pay of the applicants, Mrs Mary Hore and Mrs Margaret Hughes and Miss Mary Macaulay, and two male comparators was genuinely due to the fact that their work had been given different values in a job evaluation study.

The employers had appealed on the ground that the industrial tribunal had erred in law in refusing to hear evidence of a job evaluation study carried out after the presentation of the original applications.

Section 2A of the Equal Pay Act 1970, as inserted by the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1794), provides: "(1) Where on a complaint or reference made to an industrial tribunal... a

dispute arises as to whether any work is of equal value, the tribunal shall not determine that question unless— (a) it is satisfied that there are no reasonable grounds for determining that the work is of equal value as so mentioned; or (b) it has required a member of the panel of independent experts to prepare a report with respect to that question and has received that report.

"(2) There shall be taken into account in determining whether there are no reasonable grounds for determining that the work of a woman is of equal value... if— (a) that work and the work of the man in question have been given different values on a job evaluation study... and (b) there are no reasonable grounds for determining that the evaluation contained in the study was... made on a system which discriminates on grounds of sex."

Mr Patrick Elias for the employers; Mr B. A. Hepple for the applicants.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that in August 1987 the applicants had presented originating applications claiming that they were engaged on work of equal value with two male comparators.

Mr Justice Wood said that in August 1987 the applicants had presented originating applications claiming that they were engaged on work of equal value with two male comparators.

His Lordship said that after the older boy had sought help by telephone on a child helpline the local authority had obtained a place of safety order on January 12.

Section 3 provides: "(1) A person discriminates against a married person of either sex... if... (b) he applies to that person a requirement or condition which he applies or would apply equally to a married person but which is such that the proportion of married persons who can comply with it is considerably smaller than the proportion of unmarried persons of the same sex who can comply with it, and (ii) which he cannot show to be justifiable irrespective of the marital status of the person to whom it is applied, and (iii) which is to that person's detriment because he cannot comply with it."

Mr Peter C. L. Clark for the Training Commission; Miss Monica Cars-Frisk for the applicant.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that the Secretary of State for Employment had appointed the Training Commission to set up and manage the Employment Training Scheme which replaced the Community Programme.

A trainee was entitled to child-care payments if he or she was a lone parent, had one or more children under 16 and had made arrangements for the care

of the children on a fee-paying basis with an appropriate carer or child-minder or creche registered with a local authority. The child-care payments were limited to a sum of £50 a week.

The applicant was married and lived with her husband. She had twins of two and a half and a third child of 11 months. She had been away from work for over two years and was eligible for employment training.

Because she was not a lone parent, she was not eligible to receive child-care allowance and without that she could not afford to take up the training course.

The Training Commission had admitted that they imposed a condition that for an applicant to be entitled to a child-care payment that person had to be a lone parent; that the proportion of married persons who could comply with that condition was considerably smaller than the proportion of unmarried persons who could comply with it and that the applicant had suffered a detriment.

But they raised the defence of justifiability, namely that lone parents had been identified as a particularly disadvantaged group in the labour market and that the present arrangements made the best use of limited resources.

The industrial tribunal had set out four grounds upon which the Training Commission sought to justify the condition imposed: (i) that lone parents were financially disadvantaged not having assistance from any partner; (ii) that they were proportionately less well represented in the labour market; (iii) that if all parents were eligible it would significantly raise the child-care element of the costs of the scheme; and (iv) that it would add to the administrative costs if judgments had to be made as to entitlement.

They found that the Training Commission had failed to satisfy the burden of proof. They held that the Commission had not demonstrated that the plight of lone parents was so much worse than that of married persons such that the applicant and the restriction of child-care allowances to lone parents had not been shown to be justified in respect of marital status had not been shown to be justified in respect of marital status.

The industrial tribunal had examined all the evidence with the greatest care and their decision would be upheld. The appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Treasury Solicitor; Miss Elizabeth Whitehouse, Manchester.

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Employment Appeal Tribunal

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Relaxed approach to court orders deplored

Christy Hunt plc v Davis and Another

Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor

[Judgment January 11]

A totally relaxed approach to complying with court orders would not go unmarked by the disapproval of the court.

Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, so stated in the Chancery Division when refusing a motion to strike out the defence in an action by Christy Hunt plc against Mr and Mrs Davis and Howard White but only on condition that an immediate payment was made by the defendants to the plaintiff.

Christy Hunt plc, to cover any costs unnecessarily thrown away.

Mr Jonathan Crystal for Christy Hunt; Mr George Leggett for Mr Davis and Mr White.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that this was a deplorable case in which despite three extensions of time the defendants had still only managed to serve a defence which was an attempt to delay the trial.

He found it extremely strange that even now there was no evidence from the defendants of any kind to explain those repeated failures. That was not acceptable conduct in this day and age.

He would therefore seek to put the plaintiff as far as possible in the position it would have been in if the previous orders had been properly complied with.

Therefore, he would allow the defence and counterclaim served out of time to stand as a valid defence and counterclaim but only if by 4.00pm on the following day the defendants paid the plaintiff £750 on account of the costs incurred since the service of the statement of claim.

Whether it was the lay client or the lawyer who should pay those costs his Lordship could not say as nobody had chosen to appear before him before the trial. But if the delays were the lawyer's failure he saw no reason why the lay client should pay.

Solicitors: G. Lebor & Co; Ashurst Morris Crisp.

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order is sought are likely to be parties to subsequent proceedings in the High Court in which a claim for personal injuries is made, or (b) in any documents in respect of which the order is sought and show, if practicable by reference to any pleading served or intended to be served in the proceedings, that the documents are relevant to an issue arising or likely to arise out of a claim for personal injuries made or likely to be made in the proceedings, and that the person against whom the order is sought is likely to have or have had them in his possession, custody or power.

"(7) In this rule 'a claim for personal injuries' means a claim in respect of personal injuries to a person or in respect of a person's death."

Mr Geoffrey Nice for Mrs Barrett; Mr John Laws for the Ministry.

MR JUSTICE POPPLEWELL said the dead man was a naval airman stationed at Barfleur in northern Norway. On January 22, 1988, which was his thirtieth birthday, he had a great deal to drink, became unconscious and died in the early hours of the following morning.

A board of inquiry was held, but its 260-page report was not disclosed by the defendants, although the plaintiff was supplied with a summary setting out the findings of fact, the conclusions of the board and its recommendations.

The plaintiff contended that in order that the matter could be properly pleaded it was necessary to have the

Appeal Tribunal crimination

The industrial tribunal has ruled that a dismissal on grounds of "gross misconduct" is not subject to appeal. The ruling is a significant one, as it means that employers can dismiss an employee without the need to go through the usual disciplinary procedures. The tribunal's decision was based on the fact that the employee in question had been dismissed for a serious breach of the company's code of conduct. The tribunal found that the dismissal was justified and that the employee had no right to appeal.

ngs admissible

The industrial tribunal has ruled that evidence of an employee's conduct outside of work is admissible in a dismissal case. This is a departure from previous rulings, which had held that only conduct in the workplace was relevant. The tribunal's decision was based on the fact that the employee's conduct outside of work had a direct impact on his ability to perform his job. The tribunal found that the employer was justified in dismissing the employee on the basis of his conduct outside of work.

family matters

The industrial tribunal has ruled that an employer's failure to provide a safe working environment for its employees is a breach of its legal obligations. The ruling is a significant one, as it means that employers can be held liable for any injuries or illnesses suffered by their employees as a result of a failure to provide a safe working environment. The tribunal's decision was based on the fact that the employer in question had failed to take adequate steps to ensure the safety of its employees. The tribunal found that the employer was in breach of its legal obligations and that the employees had a right to compensation.

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LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Continued on page 32

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Starting salary £10,000 AAE.

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Due to internal expansion of our Highgate Lettings Department we urgently require a Junior Negotiator.

Experience is not essential as you will be trained in all aspects of this specialised field. You will however need to be hard working and self-motivated.

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Continued on next page

Is anybody listening?

In its insistence on retaining "the range and quality of existing programme services", the present internal BBC inquiry leaves these broader questions for another day. Perhaps, the BBC may speculate, as the decade unfolds, others may well flounder and even founder. BBC offerings may find themselves comparatively weaker in public regard, and finding continuity could in time become less of a struggle. Meantime, with a strike threat far away, limited objectives are worth achieving, the more so if they can be achieved without too threadbare a feel to the seamless robe. Better still if readjustment requires only a modest raid on the corporation's financial reserves. For these will surely be more sorely needed in rainier days yet to come.

Brian Wenham

Roving-a-bout 'The Listener'

One solution might be for *The Listener* to change tack again, and perhaps become an exclusive radio listings magazine. Proposals along these lines have been made to the BBC's chief executive, Lord Hacking. Bob Woolton, media director of the advertising agency Horner, Collis and Kirwan, argues this could be the magazine's lifeline. But he feels that the *Listener* board—three representatives from the BBC, three from ITV and three independents, chaired by the publisher's fan magazine editor—must agree to make the changes. "It takes so long to reach consensus," he says.

Today's meeting could be one of the board's last chances to prove him wrong.

And what of the BBC, whose BBC Enterprises is responsible for BBC Magazines, including

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MEDIA & MARKETING

Lessons in liberation

In Cardiff, 20 Polish journalists are learning the facts of British press life. Alex Sutherland spoke to them

Last September the *Baltic Daily*, a formerly Communist-controlled paper based in Gdansk, became Poland's first newspaper to declare itself politically independent. However, after spending two weeks learning how the Press operates in Britain, Stanislaw Danielewicz, a columnist and social affairs correspondent for the *Baltic Daily*, realizes that his colleagues have a lot to learn about running a newspaper in a free society.

"You can't just change from being a mouthpiece for the Communist Party by giving more space to issues like the Church or to Lech Walesa," Danielewicz says. "True independence comes from being able to offer opinion and criticism, of both sides."

It is an understanding of fundamental issues such as these which Danielewicz — one of 20 Polish journalists currently in Cardiff at the beginning of a two-month crash course in journalism — hopes to take back with him to Poland.

The journalists — most of whom are in their twenties and thirties — are here at the invitation of the Government's Know-How fund, an initiative launched by the Mrs Thatcher last June to help Poland achieve democracy and economic reform.

Over the next five years, the fund will contribute £50 million to a variety of projects, providing British technical aid

and expertise to Poland. The project will be extended to cover Hungary later this year.

In addition to the two-month course run for newspaper journalists, money will also go to fund a series of six-week schemes, run by the BBC World Service, to train 36 Polish radio and television journalists this year. The first group of six will arrive in Britain next month.

No one doubts that the problems the media face in Poland — as in the other newly-emerging democracies in Eastern Europe — are enormous. For more than 40 years, journalists have either acted as propagandists for the Communist Party, or been forced to work for the underground Press.

Life was hard for those who worked underground, as they operated from secret hideouts in cellars and went in fear of the police. Danielewicz was imprisoned for nine months for inserting a coded message denouncing martial law in an article for the *Baltic Daily*.

But whether official or non-official, the Polish media have never had to grasp an editorial understanding of how to question the different ideologies, or confront the commercial pressures of a competitively run press or broadcasting system. Irena Tomaszewska, who works for Polish Television in Warsaw, reckons that at least a third of her colleagues will lose their jobs as the Polish media are streamlined.



Concentrating on change: Irena Tomaszewska, a television journalist from Warsaw

The course began with three weeks in Cardiff at the Thomson Foundation, an independent charity which has run courses for journalists from the Third World since the 1960s. The programme, administered by the British Council, includes lectures from editors of national quality and tabloid newspapers, as well as directors of media organizations such as the Press Council and the Press Association, and even an address by Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's press secretary, on off-the-record political briefings.

Next week, the Polish journalists begin a

month-long attachment to newspapers and broadcasting organizations in different parts of the UK, followed by a final week in London spent visiting the House of Commons and meeting MPs with Polish interests.

"The aim is to provide ideas rather than skills," says Val Williams, controller of the Thomson Foundation's press division. "We want to raise with them questions of how the Press operates in a free society — not as an arm of government but as a check and balance to society; all of which are totally new concepts in Poland."

The BBC scheme is similar to the Thomson course, taking the journalists around broadcasting organizations and offering lectures by media representatives. The programme has been devised by Gwyneth Henderson, head of the BBC's World Service training. But it will, she insists, take account of independent television and radio as much as the BBC.

"It's a waris and all look at the whole tradition of public service broadcasting in Britain," she says. "We are not trying to pretend we are perfect, but there are questions of accountability and the media's relationship with government and the audience that we can demonstrate."

Genek Smolar, head of the BBC's Polish Service and the man behind the BBC initiative, hopes that what the journalists learn in Britain will ultimately influence the drafting of Poland's broadcasting legislation, due to come into force in March, giving the go-ahead for commercial television and local commercial radio stations.

"What we hope is that they will go back with a greater awareness of the function of the media, and the importance of preserving the integrity of the journalist," he says. "We are not arrogantly saying that what we do is better, but showing them that it is different."

But there are some problems that even the most well-intentioned courses in editorial independence and accountability will have difficulty in solving. Poland's economic crisis and chronic inflation — the cost of newspaper has more than quadrupled since November, and the price of a newspaper has increased nearly sixfold in just six weeks — has meant "luxuries" like newspapers have, for many Poles, gone by the board.

"The biggest problem we face is survival," Danielewicz admits. "What we have to learn is to operate under new conditions which are closer to capitalism. When people can't afford to buy a newspaper, it is the quality which is important. They will only buy the best."

No profit in politics?

Suggestions that commissions be cut could remove the lustre from taking on government advertising accounts

Until now, government advertising has been a prestige account for British agencies. Companies such as Saatchi & Saatchi and J. Walter Thompson have jumped at the chance of producing advertisements on often-controversial issues.

Catchlines such as "Clunk, Click Every Trip" and "Would You Be More Careful If It Was You That Got Pregnant?" have gone down in the advertising history books. More recently, the "Don't Drink And Drive" campaign has been instrumental in spurring agencies to produce advertisements with the same impact.

But, following the recent investigation by the National Audit Office (NAO) into government spending on publicity, and the continuing

debate over the efficacy of the Government's advertising budget of around £100 million, are these accounts losing their status?

At the centre of the current dispute is the NAO's recommendation that agency commission rates should be cut by 1 per cent — a move which would make a yearly saving of £750,000 to British taxpayers.

While some agencies admit that cutbacks could be made, others argue that this would only lead to ineffective, poorer-quality advertising. Commission rates are already being squeezed as the Central Office of Information (which is responsible for much of the Government's advertising) seeks to reduce its spending, and the agencies insist that further cuts would render government work too unprofitable.

"At the moment, government advertising is still desirable but, rather than enforcing a 1 per cent cut, the COI should look at individual campaigns until the last minute. That is a hazard of government business," says Brian Waldron, chairman of Waldron Allen Henry & Thompson, the agency responsible for the drink-driving campaign.

The chief executive of another agency, which has handled government business for more than a decade, adds: "The reason government ad-

vertising is not as cost-effective as it could be is that often ministers don't book advertisements or decide when they are going to run campaigns until the last minute. That is a hazard of government business."

Concern over the latest possible cutback has led agencies into preliminary discussions with the COI, which is due to respond to the NAO recommendations in March.

Ever since government advertising budgets began to

soar — from £20 million in the early 1980s to around £100 million last year — controversy has raged inside and outside Whitehall over whether taxpayers' money should be used to fund expensive promotional campaigns. Heavy political questioning over government advertising — including criticism of the launch of the National Health Service review and, more recently, the H2Owner water privatization campaign — is leading agencies to wonder

whether government business is actually worth chasing.

Many consider that the reshuffling of government ministers — who now become much more personally involved with advertising than before — is more to blame for any lack of cost-effectiveness or confusion of strategies than anything else. And, as government advertising becomes more of a public issue, the agencies feel they are having to work harder in order to steer clear of possibly contentious political nuances.

The COI denies this is true and that government advertising is becoming politically controlled, and therefore more difficult to handle. The recent launch of a potentially controversial television campaign to promote the community charge was, a spokesman says, straightforwardly informa-

tional because of the Government's target audience: pensioners and people on low incomes.

The COI has begun to experiment more heavily with poster and radio advertising as a less-expensive way of getting its message across. "In the past two to three years there has been a marked increase in the COI's use of posters for campaigns such as Crime and Prevention, and Employment Training," says Keith Belben, the COI's director of advertising.

"We've also been using radio more, as stations have opened up and audiences can be targeted more effectively, but television is still the right medium for many of our campaigns."

Nicola Chapman

Rising trend

Hot-air balloon promotions are really taking off

United Biscuits is dropping its television advertising for KP Choc Dip, the chocolate biscuit finger aimed at five to 11-year-old children. Instead, it is spending £100,000 on a 90 ft high hot air balloon, shaped like a Choc Dip carton, and sending it on a two-month promotional tour of primary schools.

Are the children being exploited by big business? Some will argue that they are, but for Michael Kendrick, managing director of Airship and Balloon Company of Telford, Shropshire, the promotion demonstrates the growing effectiveness of customized balloons.

His company operates balloons for a dozen companies — from Sterling Health, which has a 100 ft high replica of an Andrews Liver Salts tin (complete with spoon) to Cadbury Schweppes, which has an inflated Creme Egg.

Mark Lockwood, also of ABC, says the balloons, which are powered by liquid propane gas, cost from £6,000 to £40,000 to buy and between £30,000 and £100,000 a year to operate. They are limited by commercial aviation restrictions (they cannot fly over big cities, for example) but Lockwood believes that the attention they attract compares favourably with the success achieved by direct advertising.

Geoff Turner, marketing manager of Flying Pictures, ABC's main rival, agrees that balloons attract media coverage, but he says balloons remain a fringe PR activity compared with the more manoeuvrable airships, his company's main interest. Allied Breweries spent £250,000 last year on hiring a Flying Pictures airship to follow the touring Australian cricketers, promoting Castle-maine XXXX lager. At Trent Bridge, Nottingham's test cricket ground, 96 per cent of those questioned had seen the airship and 94 per cent remembered the brand name.

Andrew Lycett

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Continued from
page 29

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this is a newly established post to assist with the organisation of the College's Fellowship and Diploma examinations. Applicants should have a secretarial background. Computer/WP experience essential. Short-hand an advantage.

The post will appeal to applicants who would enjoy the detailed work necessary to ensure the smooth running of examinations. Salary according to age and experience on scale £11,482 - £13,063.

Staff receive 4 weeks' annual leave, L.V.s, interest-free season ticket loan. Non-smokers please. Applications in writing to:

Mrs. J. Stephenson
Education Secretary
The Royal College of Radiologists
38 Portland Place
London W1N 3DG.

ONE TO ONE

£12,000
Excellent opportunity for confident top calibre PA/Secretary with first class organisational skills to assist with major clients working in dynamic, busy, Central London. Good perks. (22-25)
£15,000
Chairman of successful firm of Architects seeks outgoing PA/Sec. Tremendous variety, lots of organisation and responsibility, starting W1 offices.

01-730 5148 (Rec. Cont.)

**Marketing**
6 wks hols

Join the lively, fun Marketing Department of well known dish new-sponsor as secretary to the Marketing Manager. Liaise with ad agencies, sales promotion and research companies. Organise exhibitions and deal with sponsorships. Constant telephone contact with external departments. Learn to use a DTP. Skills 50/WP, age early 20s. £11,000 plus bonus.

Please call Esther Manderson on 01-256 5018

HOESTONES

Young Ones
£12,500

Small, fun City based team of commercial estate agents seeks a secretary with a sense of humour to organise their Director and a young negotiator. Set up their meetings, hold the fort in their absence and deal with client enquiries. They will involve you in all aspects of their work, show you round the properties and celebrate their winning deals with you. 45 wpm typing, age 19-25.

Please call Elizabeth Williamson on 01-256 5018

HOESTONES

CBS Records International Limited

CBS Records International the regional headquarters for Europe, Asia and Africa are looking for three shorthand/WP secretaries for their offices in Mayfair, W1.

Secretary to Senior Vice President Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe
The Senior VP is responsible for 9 record companies and 16 licensees in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. He is looking for a secretary to assist him in all aspects of his busy job, to run the office in his absence and act as his confidential PA. This is a demanding role offering interest and involvement. Aged between 22 - 27, you should have a minimum of 2 years' secretarial experience at a senior level, preferably with an international organisation.

Secretary to Area Manager, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe
We are looking for a second/third jobber to assist the Area Manager who works with the Senior VP, negotiating and ensuring the smooth running of existing and new license agreements. Aged 20 - 25 with possibly a legal/professional background you should be confident, self-motivated and interested in learning about and/or expanding your knowledge of the record business.

Secretary, Finance Department
The finance department is looking for a second secretary, with a minimum of one year's experience, to undertake work for two financial controllers and generally help out as necessary. Rusty shorthand is sufficient for this position but a knowledge and/or interest in learning different computer systems is important.

Excellent benefits include competitive salary, 25 days holiday, discount on records and free concert tickets.

Please write with CV and salary expectation to Ann Nicholson, CBS Records International, 1 Red Place, London. W1Y 3RE.

Prospects in Publishing
£18,000

Calling all linguists Fantastic opportunity to use your languages and progress in a new publishing house with international expansion plans.

As PA to the two directors, one of whom is French, no two days will ever be the same. During the first year, projects will include launching new titles in Paris and Vienna, and setting up offices in Singapore. Good French is essential (A level standard minimum) plus either Spanish or Italian. Age 23 - 30. Skills required: shorthand and WP.

Please telephone Anna Martin on 01-588 3535

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITY PACKAGES
WEST END JOBS
c£17,000

Top US Investment Bank with West End and City offices constantly need on the staff secretaries/PAs, preferably with languages. Beautiful offices and varied work with lots of client contact. Speeds 50wpm. Age 20-28.

ADVERTISING
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
£15,000 + PERKS

Small Design team need a brilliant organiser to not only be a top PA to two young directors, but also to be an office manager. Perfect for someone fun and ambitious. 40% typing. Speeds 50/50. Age 22+.

Please call us for an interview until 6.00pm.

LONDON BRUSSELS

£14,500 + BONUS
+ BENEFITS

Experienced, outgoing P.A./Secretary with good administrative skills required for an international Energy Group operating in London's West End. Candidates must be energetic, possess considerable initiative and be prepared for a busy but rewarding position, attached to our European Crudeoil Group. If you think that this could be for you, ring:

KAREN on 01-224 4940

No Agencies

EXECUTIVE
RECEPTION
£13,375

This prestigious law firm is looking for an executive receptionist to join the best team in the City. The company is split between three adjacent buildings. As your job will be full of variety as you will be responsible for a colleague in a different location each week. If you enjoy meeting people this high profile organisation will give you Organised Boardroom meetings, book lunches and ensure the smooth running of the reception area.

Benefits include free uniforms, mortgage of a sports club, subsidised lunches and paid overtime.

City Office

01-726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

PA/SECRETARY
£13,000 + BONUS

Assisting the Directors of a Property Company and a Swiss Watch Importing Company. We require an enthusiastic person with good communication and secretarial skills to work in a young and friendly office environment. This varied and responsible role calls for initiative and a willing attitude.

Contact Melanie Foster 01-371 6166 (NO AGENCIES)

RESIDENTIAL
LETTINGS
SECRETARY

Ideal position for 2nd jobber in a small busy office based in Kensington, handling prestigious properties in the Central London area. Lots of telephone and client contact. Short-term not essential. WINKWORTH Sally Cannon 01-237 8294 (No agencies)

SECRETARY/PA
c£14,000

Young Managing Director of highly successful executive recruitment company needs reliable right hand and first-class secretary. Shorthand and accurate typing are vital but initiative, commitment, intelligence and energy are key to the role. If you can combine great efficiency with enormous flexibility the opportunity to play a major part in the company are immense.

Call Ann Fitzgerald on 01 629 7262.

GRADUATE
APPOINTMENTS
7 PRINCES STREET LONDON W1**AIRLINE CONSORTIUM**
CUSTOMER SUPPORT CENTRE
£12,000 - SWINDON

You will maintain customer databases and other procedures vital to smooth operation of Centre. You need VDU skills a methodical approach to work. Career opportunity.

Call Lynette 01 930 1214

SPS Travel Recruitment

HOTEL SALES OFFICE
To £15,000

Senior PA and Junior Secretary for European Sales Director of luxury hotel group. You will both be fully involved in all activities, sales, conferences, special events etc. Excellent career route out of secretarial. For now you need good admin & S/H.

Call Lynette 01 930 1214

SPS Travel Recruitment

WANTED!

Well-spoken, intelligent, experienced, motivated, energetic, reliable, capable of using the telephone and meeting clients. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, which is a small, growing, successful business. Good salary and benefits. Good working conditions. Up to £14,000 plus bonus.

Call Nikki on 01-746 4646

KNIGHTSBRIDGE
ESTATE AGENCY

Employment and capable PA required for small busy office in Knightsbridge. Good salary and benefits. Good working conditions. Up to £14,000 plus bonus.

Tel: 01 225 1244

JSP ARCHITECTS

Buyer friendly Kensington High Street Architects need second secretary, no S/H. 9.00am - 5.30pm. £11,000.

Call Marianna on 01-938 4577.

Bilinguac**JOBS OF THE MONTH**

MARKETING! £12,500 + Bonus
Outgoing? Fluent French? Use your communication skills and learn the marketing business in a busy marketing department. A really exciting position for a top tier.

TRAVEL! £18,000 + Exc. Bens
Dutch/French/German speaker? Good communicator? Work to charming boss in expanding property company. Hard working, friendly environment. Travel, meeting and entertaining clients. Full involvement for the executive secretary.

493 6446 020 5373

TOP TV PROGRAMME
c. £14,000

Award winning satirical TV series need a highly motivated live wire PA to work for a newly appointed Executive. He will be involved in all aspects of broadcast television, as well as corporate videos and commercials. Skills of 100/50 will be needed when you attend senior conferences, organise production teams and direct designers. Great scope to learn and grow in this challenging newly created role.

JUDY FISHER
ASSOCIATES
01-437 2277

Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY

Required for Japanese representative office in W1. WP skills and accounts experience would be useful. Aged 20 to 30. Salary range £12,000 - £15,000. Send full C.V. with photo if possible to: Kanebo Ltd, 13 to 14 Woodstock Street, London W1R 1HU or telephone Jacqui Smith on 0252 - 836681, 7 till 10 pm.

NO AGENCIES PLEASE.

MARKETING
SECRETARY

Expanding Agency seeks enthusiastic, energetic, motivated, reliable, capable of using the telephone and meeting clients. You will be responsible for the day to day running of the company, which is a small, growing, successful business. Good salary and benefits. Good working conditions. Up to £14,000 plus bonus.

Based London W4. Phone Caroline NOW on 01-995 3131.

SECRETARY
c£11,000

EXPERIENCED SECRETARY REQUIRED IN BURSAR'S OFFICE WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL SOUND SECRETARIAL SKILLS. TYPING, W.P., SHORTHAND AND NO AGENCIES FOR DETAILED INFORMATION CALL -

01 834 0216

MEDIA CAREERS

£9,500-13,500

As a major force in Media Recruitment Christopher Keats recruits for most of the

FILM, TV, ADVERTISING, PR & MAGAZINE

companies in Central and Greater London. If you are seeking a media career and are prepared to use your secretarial skills in return for total involvement, responsibility and prospects, contact the Media Specialists on:

01-379 4164 or 379 0344

until 8pm

EVENINGS
£15,000 + O/T.

Young shorthand secretary for successful city based American company. Join this friendly, expanding evening team, working from 4.00pm and enjoy the benefits of paid overtime and excellent working conditions. Skills - SH/WP 100/50 wpm. Call 03 252 52 fax CV to 259 6637

NORTON ASSOCIATES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CHAIRMAN
PA/SEC
c£16,000 + Banking Bens.

A professional confidential Secretary, aged 25-35 with a min of 100 wpm and 50 wpm, a superb typing and shorthand skills, a superb telephone manner, a superb ability to handle a wide range of a varied level with a calm friendly through efficient manner.

For full details call Anne O'Connor on 01-8015.

Knapland Park Cons.

MAYFAIR
INTERIOR DESIGN CO
£10,000++

Well-spoken, responsible/assistant to MD or friendly Co. Must have 35wpm typing and cheerful personality. Lots of involvement and excellent prospects. Age 18+.

Tel: 01 493 4072

O. C. Rec Cons

FASHION P.A.

Chairman and MD of the eastern European fashion design firm. A professional confidential Secretary, aged 25-35 with a min of 100 wpm and 50 wpm, a superb typing and shorthand skills, a superb telephone manner, a superb ability to handle a wide range of a varied level with a calm friendly through efficient manner.

For full details call Anne O'Connor on 01-8015.

Knapland Park Cons.

MEDICAL
SECRETARY

Required for busy Orthopaedic Surgeon at Hospital in Fulham. Short-hand essential - some knowledge of Word Processing desirable. Salary £10,500 approx. TEL: 01 486 1086.

Telephone ref MGH now on 01-662 8511

PROPERTY SECRETARY

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

Director's Secretary

SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, a world leader in health care has an enviable record of discovery and development of prescription medicines. Our Regulatory Affairs Department, which is responsible for the registration of new pharmaceutical products worldwide, is seeking to recruit a Secretary who will provide a first class service to the Director, thus ensuring the smooth running of the Department, particularly during the Director's frequent absences.

Candidates must be capable of making independent decisions, recognise priorities and pay meticulous attention to detail. In addition to excellent secretarial skills, applicants must have experience of word processing, preferably Displaywrite 4. Experience of working within a medical environment and an interest in visual aids/graphics is desirable.

Based at our attractive site just outside Epsom the remuneration package is all you would expect from an international company of our stature. It includes a competitive salary, flexible working hours, non-contributory pension, a bonus scheme, sports and social facilities and free transport from the surrounding area.

If you feel that you fulfil the requirements and are interested in this position please phone our 24 hour answering service on Burgh Heath (0737) 364353, quoting reference C8, or write to the Personnel Officer, SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, Yew Tree Bottom Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5XQ.

SB

SmithKline Beecham

P.A. IN P.R. £16,000

As P.A. to the Chairman of this small corporate and financial public relations company you will need a calm, friendly and outgoing personality. You will be totally involved in the day-to-day running of the business, attending Board meetings and taking minutes, dealing with the Chairman's correspondence, looking after his diary, co-ordinating his travel arrangements and attending to some personal work. There will be a large amount of client contact, both by telephone and in person as well as some office administration. This is a busy, autonomous role which would suit a mature, flexible P.A. with good communication skills looking for an interesting and varied position.

Age 26+ Skills 80/50.

RECRUITMENT COMPANY

Jaros Baum & Bolles (UK) Limited, an American firm of Consultant Building Services Engineers, are looking for a Secretarial Supervisor with two years' experience of Word Perfect to maintain the smooth running of their Word Processing Department.

You will be responsible for progressing work through the Department, meeting deadlines and high standards in a very busy area of our organisation. We therefore need someone who has good interpersonal and organisational skills, an eye for detail and a concern for efficiency and quality of presentation. 'A' level English would be an advantage.

We offer excellent working facilities, good career prospects and a starting salary of £15,000.

Applications should be forwarded to Mary Nurse.

Jaros Baum & Bolles (UK) Limited
Consulting Engineers - Building Services
Terminal House
52 Grosvenor Gardens
London SW1W 0AU

JB&B

Administrative Flair? c£15,000

Superb opening for a self-motivated, organised individual with this small but established Property concern. As P.A. to their highly successful founding Director you will enjoy a responsible role where initiative and organisational skills are the essentials for this busy position. Besides co-ordinating his business commitments and some personal matters, you will maintain the day-to-day running of his busy office; assessing priorities, actioning admin tasks and utilising your communication skills as you liaise with clients etc. Happy to fort-hold and work on your own initiative vital. Excellent skills (100/60). Age 28+ Call 01-953 5787.

GORDON-YATES

Recruitment Consultants

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

WE ARE CREATING TWO NEW POSITIONS TO WORK IN OUR BUSY HYDE PARK CORNER OFFICES. YOU SHOULD BE BRIGHT, WELL-ORGANISED, MOTIVATED AND ABOVE ALL, ABLE TO PRIORITISE A DEMANDING WORKLOAD FOR A YOUNG FRIENDLY TEAM OF CONSULTANTS. YOU WILL BE AGED 18-35 YRS WITH ACCURATE TYPING 50 WPM WITH PREFERABLY S/H AND A LANGUAGE SALARY £11,000 PLUS EXCELLENT BENEFITS. PLEASE REPLY TO:

Rebecca Mayhew
Monitor Company
14 Grosvenor Crescent
London SW1X 7EE
Telephone: 01-235 8010
(no agencies)

IPP LTD

IPP Management Services Limited is the holding company for a group of companies committed to the office environment, furniture and service market based in the UK and Europe.

We need a bright, enthusiastic and extremely professional person to work as receptionist at our Central London headquarters.

We are offering an attractive remuneration package and a friendly environment in which to work. If you have receptionist experience and are aware of the importance of this role within a company, please contact Verity Cunningham on 01-831 3161 for further details.

(no agencies)

PR EXECUTIVE

Are you an ambitious, talented and experienced (min 3 years) PR EXECUTIVE?

Our Knightsbridge based company is looking for you: an extremely organized, self motivated professional with writing skills and enthusiasm for the areas of Home-Interest and Design.

Salary negotiable circa £13,000.

Please phone LAURA ELASTINGS-SMITH 01-584-1744

PUBLICITY £10,500

The publicity manager of a well known publishing house - specialising in high quality food and drink books - needs an energetic and enthusiastic assistant.

In this varied role you will be organising authors tours, setting up interviews with radio stations and liaising daily with the Press.

You will be actively involved in the preparation of book launches and assist in the hectic co-ordination of sales conferences.

You will need a minimum of six months secretarial experience to gain this excellent training position which could be a springboard into the PR or publishing world.

80 shorthand 50 typing.

Medial Recruitment Consultants 01 491 2848.

MAYFAIR

Capable secretary P.A. with sense of humour required to organise 2 outgoing Chartered Surveyors. Full computer/WP facilities. Salary plus bonus package.

CIRCA £12,800 TO £15,000. PHONE 01 498 1278.

PA IN PR £16,000

The London office of a well-established, international PR company is currently looking for a professional and intelligent PA to work for the group's Managing Director.

A good telephone manner and excellent interpersonal skills are essential as you liaise with people at the highest levels. You will also have ample opportunity to demonstrate your organisational ability when co-ordinating the Managing Director's busy schedule as well as organising client entertainment.

Exceptional secretarial skills plus a confident and cheerful personality will give you a great opportunity to join this successful company in a very rewarding role.

90/60 Age: 24+ Call Angela Mortimer Ltd (Recruitment Consultants) City Office Tel: 726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

MONEY MAKING £17,000

The Company is a fast-moving offshoot of a US Stockbrokers primarily responsible for the financing of airlines and major mergers and acquisitions. Based in sumptuous offices in the West End they are looking for a highly qualified PA to join their team.

One of their senior Directors - a well-known City figure is looking for a right hand to help him and hold the fort as he travels extensively.

You will need to be numerate as part of your job will involve assisting with accounting procedures. If you are prepared to put in the commitment required for this exciting opportunity the rewards include a substantial bonus and free lunches in addition to the satisfaction of coping with a challenging job.

French useful. 100/60 25-35 Call Angela Mortimer Ltd (Recruitment Consultants) City Office Tel: 726 8491

ANGELA MORTIMER

£18,000 ++ Property

The new business development Director of this well established Property Development Company, is looking for an exceptional P.A.

You should have superb organisational skills, be articulate and intelligent, well presented and spoken and enjoy providing an efficient back up to your charming boss.

Skills: 90/50 Age: 24 - 30

HANOVER SQUARE 01-408-1461

ANGELA MORTIMER

SALES ASSISTANT INVESTMENT BANKING £22,000++ pkg

A leading international investment house is currently recruiting a Sales Assistant.

This is a demanding role which requires an outgoing personality, intelligence, ability to cope under pressure, tenacity and commitment. Banking experience is useful but not essential.

In return you will be exceptionally well rewarded and have one of the most interesting jobs in the City.

Age: 21 - 26 Skills: 75/50

HANOVER SQUARE 01-408 1461

ANGELA MORTIMER

EXCITING PR OPPORTUNITY FOR SALES ORIENTATED PROFESSIONAL

Rapidly expanding Thames Valley PR Consultancy (IT specialists) needs enthusiastic, self starter to maintain high service standards for new account wins - and grow the business.

Successful applicant will have:

- previous business or journalism experience
- and at least two years in-house or consultancy experience
- the ability to research information and write
- the capability to communicate and explain technology in plain language

Good package plus perks and sales incentive programme.

Salary as appropriate for experience and future potential.

Please contact Crispin Manners on 0344 779000

DIRECTORS' SECRETARIES

The Go-Between - £19,000

Our client is the Chairman of a private engineering company. He heads a dynamic team whose expertise has led them to become market leaders in their field.

He needs a Personal Assistant to interact between him, his clients and the team, to prepare monthly situation reports, to organise company functions and to assist him with his charitable interests.

He is dynamic and he can be voluble but he is also incredibly generous. Age 30-35 Skills 100/70.

01-629 9323

INCENTIVE TRAVEL COMPANY, W1

Good opportunity for bright second jobber to learn about the incentive and conference travel business, working for the busy Operations Manager of our Incoming Department, handling group tours in the UK and Europe. Accurate typing skills required and knowledge of WP an advantage. Salary A.A.E. Please apply in writing with C.V. to:

International Vacationers
1 Sherwood Street, Piccadilly Circus, London W1V 7RA
A Member of the WPA Group (no agencies)

SECRETARY/ PA

Secretary/ PA required to work for the Managing Partner of this busy and lively South Kensington Estate Agency. You must have excellent secretarial skills 80/50wpm which you will use on a daily basis. Apart from the shorthand/ typing you have to liaise with clients, prepare the brochures, advertisements and press releases. You should be 21+ with at least 2 yrs experience. Salary according to a.a.e.

No Agencies.

Please call Patricia/ Sukie 01-589 1243.

THE CONDE NAST PUBLICATIONS LTD.,

Has vacancies for young Secretaries. Good typing, WP and Shorthand essential. Please write enclosing your CV to:

Miss Barbara Tims,
Personnel Director,
Vogue House, Hanover Square,
London, W1R 0AD.

2. THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING TUNA.

THE GREAT DICTATOR, MY DARLING BOSS, HAS AN EXPENSE CLAIM FOR FLORIDA QUERIED.

PERSONALLY I THINK TGD HAS SHOWN UNCHARACTERISTIC RESTRAINT. BUT THERE'S A QUESTION OVER HIS £287 CLAIM FOR A 500LB TUNA.

NO-ONE IN ACCOUNTS UNDERSTANDS THE PROTOCOL INVOLVED: LARGE AMERICAN CLIENTS RESPECT A BRIT WHO BRINGS IN THE 'BIG ONE' ON HIS FIRST FISHING TRIP.

I INFORMED TGD THAT 'ACCOUNTS WANTS EITHER THE RECEIPT OR THE FISH.' I HOPE ACCOUNTS HAS A SENSE OF HUMOUR.

TGD NOW ASKS ME TO CLAIM A FURTHER £155 FOR THE BURIAL OF THE POOR BEAST. THE LESSON IS - YOU CAN OFTEN SMELL A RAT IN A FISHY TALE. TIME TO WEIGH TODAY'S CATCH IN ELIZABETH HUNT APPOINTMENTS.

RICH AND FAMOUS £17K NEG

THIS MAJOR RETAIL GROUP SEEKS A PA/SECRETARY TO A VERY SENIOR EXECUTIVE WHO IS ALSO INVOLVED IN THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS. FASCINATING ROLE AS YOU MEET CELEBRITIES AND ACT ALMOST AS A SOCIAL SECRETARY. 60WPM AUDIO ABILITY, SHORTHAND AN ASSET. TEL: 01-248 3744.

ADMINISTRATOR TO £18K

JOIN THIS LEADING FIRM OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS, TAKE CHARGE OF ALL COMPANY ADMINISTRATION INCLUDING STAFF RECRUITMENT, INVOLVEMENT WITH PR/MARKETING PROJECTS. TWICE YEARLY SALARY REVIEW. PREVIOUS OFFICE MANAGEMENT. COMPUTER SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE AND 50 WPM TYPING. TEL: 01-240 3511

CHAIRMAN'S SECRETARY £20K

JOIN THIS SUCCESSFUL HOLDING COMPANY WHICH OWNS A LEADING TV FILM NETWORK. ENJOY A HIGH LEVEL PA ROLE AS YOU ATTEND THE AGM AND BECOME INVOLVED IN ACQUISITIONS. CHAIRMAN LEVEL BACKGROUND GAINED WITHIN A LARGE BLUE CHIP COMPANY. 100/50 SKILLS. TEL: 01-408 0247.

NO SHORTHAND? £17.5K

FAMOUS NAME MAYFAIR COMPANY SEEKS A PA/SECRETARY TO THEIR TITLED CHAIRMAN. HE NEEDS YOU TO CO-ORDINATE ALL HIS MANY BUSINESS PROJECTS. THEREFORE YOU WILL ENJOY CONSTANT CONTACT WITH VIPS. SUPERB OFFICES AND FIVE WEEKS HOLIDAY. 60WPM TYPING. TEL: 01-408 0247

MATURE SECRETARY £16K

CLOSE TO GOVINT GARDENS, THIS TOP PROPERTY COMPANY SEEKS A PA TO THEIR SENIOR PARTNER. BASED IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITE, YOUR DAY WILL BE BUSY BUT NOT PRESSURED. TWICE YEARLY SALARY REVIEW. IDEAL FOR MATURE SECRETARY WITH 80/50 SKILLS. TEL: 01-240 3511

CITY SOPHISTICATION £216.5K

THE SENIOR PARTNER OF THIS MAJOR CITY COMPANY IS A VERY SOPHISTICATED MAN WITH A WIDE RANGE OF IMPORTANT BUSINESS AND PERSONAL CONTACTS AND NEEDS AN EQUAL. SOCIALLY CONFIDENT PA WITH EXCELLENT ORGANISING ABILITY AND 80/50 SKILLS. TEL: 01-248 3744

Elizabeth Hunt

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA/SECRETARY REQUIRED FOR AMERICAN ATTORNEY

Fast audio typing, administration and WP skills are essential for this busy position in a small, friendly American law firm. Shorthand skills desirable but not essential. The applicant should have several years business experience and an ability to work on own initiative. Preferred age range 28 - 40.

Excellent salary, interest free season ticket loan, and free use of gym and sauna.

Please apply in writing enclosing C.V. to:

Lesley MacKinnon
Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle
2 Throgmorton Avenue
London EC2N 2DL
(No Agencies)

MOSS BROS GROUP PLC

Secretary/PA to the Retail Operations Director

Moss Bros Plc the successful and expanding Mens Wear Company, which also incorporates Cecil Gee and Suit Company, are looking for a Secretary/PA to the Retail Operations Director and his small team.

Based at brand new offices within easy walking distance of Clapham Junction BR, this is an ideal opportunity to beat the pressures of commuting into the City. As Secretary/PA you will need to be well organised, able to work on your own initiative, prioritise your busy work schedule.

Aged 25+, accurate shorthand and wp experience is required whilst good communication skills and attention to detail are essential.

In return we offer an excellent salary, season ticket loan, contributory pension scheme and generous staff discount. If you are looking for challenge and variety, please send your CV with current salary details to Debbie Carpenter (Director of Personnel), Moss Bros Group Plc, 8 St. John's Hill, Clapham Junction, London SW11 1SA.

PROPERTY PARTNER'S PA/SECRETARY

Busy professional property practice, situated close to Liverpool Street, requires experienced shorthand/wp secretary (min. 100/75) with excellent education and communication skills. This pressurized position demands poise, initiative and a mature approach together with the confidence to liaise with clients at the highest level. A flexible, professional attitude and a sense of humour are essential. Age 25 plus. Excellent salary and benefits package.

Please telephone or send c.v. to:
01-377 0666
Annabelle Lawrence
AYH Partnership
40 Chilton Street
LONDON EC2A 4AY

VENTURE CAPITAL SENIOR SECRETARY

Salary c£15,000 25 Days Holiday.

Great Winchester Capital Fund Managers is expanding and a secretary is require for Bob Henry. Small, friendly City office. Lots to do - secretarial and administration. Competent shorthand essential.

CV's by fax to 01-638 4239 or Tel 01-588 7575 Ext 312 No Agencies Please

PA IN INVESTMENT

P.A. required for Managing Director of small, successful investment company in the West End.

Responsibility for administration of the office and scope to become fully involved in future expansion.

WP (Wordperfect 5 - training will be given) and audio/shorthand. Non-smoker. Ability to work alone important. Attractive package & benefits.

Write please, in confidence, with full C.V. to:
Mark Thomson, Glycol Investments Ltd., 48 Hay's Mews, London W1X 7XT

日本語業務セクレタリー アドミニストレーター

Large, prestigious firm of Chartered Accountants based in EC4 require a mature Audio/Copy/ Word Processing Secretary, with knowledge of a Japanese keyboard. Must be 'A' Level educated and fluent in Japanese, as translation will be involved. Age open. Up to £16,000 AAE. Ref: S-11



01-621 0155

47 Liverpool Street, EC2 (Opposite Next)

Marketforce APPOINTMENTS

PURELY PERSONNEL

3 VACANCIES £10-13K + EXC BENS

This move into personnel will ensure you to become thoroughly versed in all aspects of the running of the busy and expanding department.

If you are a college leaver with an interest in dealing with people at all levels there are two positions available. If, on the other hand you have more experience there is a more senior opening for you. You will be dealing with everything from recruitment, organising training courses and liaising with colleges through to stronging personnel, holiday benefits and references.

All three openings are extremely rewarding and challenging.

If you have good S/H, WP and communication skills with Maths and English D Levels contact Clare Rowell.

Marketforce Appointments
18 Dover Street London W1X 3PS
Tel: 01-408 1616 Fax: 01-491 2888

YOU MAY FACE THESE PROBLEMS

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Find the solution

The Personnel Today Workshop is a conference and exhibition for all who manage a workforce.

Olympia 2 - London
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More details on 01-370 8214

01-481 4481

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

01-481 4481

*****EXPLORING NEW PASTURES*****
"£14,000 + BONUS"
 This large very successful Co. require their moving link within their sales division. You will work along side the sales director providing secretarial support as well as becoming very involved in the new business of the company. If you are looking for an exciting and challenging position and feel you want to be more than just a secretary.
 Please Call Julia now.....

Susan Beck

*****TIME ON YOUR HANDS*****
"£13,000 + PERKS"
 If you are flexible and enjoy variety in your work, the upmarket Swiss Watch Co. might just be what you are looking for. Dealing with all aspects of PR and advertising through to holding the fort and making sure the office runs smoothly. A very interesting and rewarding position with only a little typing.
 Call Julia.....

Susan Beck

*****EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT IN WORLD FAMOUS AUCTION HOUSE*****
"£14,000 + BONUS"
 This is not just a secretarial position, but more of an Executive Assistant. Your day will be very varied and no two days will be the same. This unique position would suit someone ideally in their late twenties wanting to eventually move out of secretarial and into the arts.
 Call Beverly.....

Susan Beck

*****BECAUSE FIRST IMPRESSIONS COUNT*****
"£12,000 + Fantastic Bonus"
 Are you fed up with your day being mundane and boring? Then this is for you. This very young, lively company based in the heart of the West End require a Junior Secretary/Receptionist. Your day will be split, so presentation and good personal skills, besides a good secretarial background, are required. Five weeks holiday, fantastic bonus plus free lunch.
 Call Beverly.....

Susan Beck

*****FOR SALE IN SW7*****
"£13,000 Neg"
 Provide the back up for this very busy international property company. They require a Secretary/Administrator with good typing and shorthand skills. If you are confident and enthusiastic and able to use your own initiative, this is a good opportunity to get involved with property and grow with a reputable company.
 Call Sara.....

Susan Beck

*****PRIVATE EYE*****
"£13,000 Neg"
 Do you wish to be part of a professional company? This reputable Mayfair-based company require a capable Secretary to work for their MD. This is an excellent opportunity for someone who enjoys using their initiative and would like to work in a highly confidential environment.
 Call Sara.....

Susan Beck

A BOLDER PERSON FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Advertising Sales
£17,000

We are a company that makes things happen! We have opportunities within the Classified Advertisement Department (dealing with Four National Newspapers) for bright, tenacious, ambitious and enthusiastic people.

Previous sales experience is not essential, but your persuasive and enthusiastic manner is! You will be working in a new technology environment - so you must be able to type - at least 30 wpm, and be aged between 20 & 30.

After an intensive two week training course you will join one of the close knit specialist teams dealing with either Appointments, Motors, Property or Features advertising.

The prospects are excellent, and an unlimited bonus potential plus generous basic salary, together with 6 weeks holiday and free medical insurance are just a few of the benefits we offer.

We are the market leaders in our field - so only the best need apply to Pamela Hamilton on 01-782 7133, 01-782 7878 or 01-782 7759.

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES

Personnel & PR to £13,000

Variety is the word for this busy and demanding role as secretary to Admin Officer in W1 firm. Personnel responsibilities from keeping staff records to organising temporary support. PR fair useful for organising concerts and racing days and helping with the firm's newsletter. General admin and secretarial support need 60wpm WP.
 Talk to Claire Parr on 01-637 3303.

LOVE + TATE Appointments

Interior Design £15,000

Work alongside young general manager, his sales team and interior designers as he sets up and runs new outlets for furniture/interior design company in W1. Organise travel, manage clients, meet customers, suppliers and advertising agents.
 You will be articulate with good typing of around 60wpm WP and 80wpm shorthand. Phone Claire Parr now on 01-637 3303.

LOVE + TATE Appointments

Perfectionist PA French Useful To \$16,000

Your initiative and professionalism will be highly prized in famous City firm as PA to Partner. This is a senior appointment and you will match his perfectionism, spending half your time on admin - organising conferences, travel and managing his diary. Lots of involvement with client projects, some overseas. 60wpm WP/80wpm sh/h. Some audio. Telephone Claire Parr on 01-637 3303.

LOVE + TATE Appointments

DIRECTOR OF EXECUTIVE SEARCH FIRM NEEDS ORGANISING

We are looking for a mature, efficient and reliable PA/Secretary who will create order and work well under pressure. You will be totally involved, with plenty of client and candidate contact.
 Your secretarial skills will be excellent, with accurate shorthand (90 wpm+) and languages will be an asset.

You will have a professional telephone manner and smart presentation.
 If you have the above qualities and skills, please call us to discuss this position which offers a salary of £15k negotiable in W1.
 Call Senior Secretaries on 01-499 0092, 173 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Ultimate Challenge!

You are a young, dynamic and successful secretary eager to seize the ultimate challenge! As PA to the Director of Private Clients in this prosperous investment bank, you will operate at the front line liaising with the rich, famous and highly influential! Capable of taking the initiative and anticipating his decisions you will organise and attend presentations, develop marketing strategies for new products, carry out research and coordinate your own projects from inception to completion. Ambitious and forward thinking, you will have the confidence to take on new challenges as your role continues to develop. 90/50 £20,000 package.
 Specialists in the City for young career secretaries. 01-499 9175.

FINESSE CITY
APPOINTMENTS

HIGH FLYER

You will not pilot the plane, but you will use your initiative and cope under pressure in a fast moving cockpit!

The Finance Director of this Aviation Company is looking for a numerate PA/Secretary with excellent secretarial skills (S/H 90 wpm and WP experience). You will need a good telephone manner, smart

presentation and strong personality. You will be responsible, professional and mature, and enjoy being part of a small team.

Salary £15k negotiable, plus benefits. Smart WC2 offices.
 Call Senior Secretaries on 01-499 0092, 173 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9PB.

SENIOR SECRETARIES

THE RIGHT PEOPLE FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE

ART GALLERY

£12,700 + 6 WEEKS HOLIDAY

Working in the Trust Office of this West End Gallery, you will need excellent word processing skills, plus a good telephone manner and the ability to organise and work well under pressure. Liaising with sponsors and helping to organise fund raising events, you'll find that this is the most exciting 'behind the scenes' area of the Art world, its purpose is to finance exhibitions and attract hordes of visitors each and every day of the year!

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY

Recruitment
Suite 314, Bedford Chambers, North Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2

PROSPECTS IN PR

£14,500 + BONUS

Excellent opportunity to progress from being a Shortland Secretary to an Account Handler, within six months! This rapidly expanding and successful Corporate & Financial PR Consultancy is now looking for an ambitious secretary with initiative, a logical mind, foresight and a strong personality, plus the ability to work under pressure and communicate effectively at all levels 90/50 and previous PR experience preferred.

01-497 8003

SUSAN DOUGHTY

Recruitment
Suite 314, Bedford Chambers, North Piazza, Covent Garden, London WC2

RICHMOND

UK offices of International Group require secretary in early 20's with good secretarial skills and preferably experienced in financially related work. Must be well-presented, a non-smoker and car driver preferred.

Benefits include excellent salary, free lunches and even the use of a heated swimming pool.

Write or fax your C.V. to:

Lyndsay Whitburn
 Solaglas International BV,
 The King's Observatory
 Old Deer Park, Richmond,
 Surrey TW9 2AZ
 Tel: 01-940 9177
 Fax: 01-948 7323
 NO AGENCIES

c. £16,000 FOR WORKING AT LEISURE!

Mainly in disco's this company is expanding rapidly, not only in the UK, but also across Europe. You'd be SecPA to the Chief Executive, but working as a member of his close-knit, fun-hat team. Essential attributes for this job: good shorthand and WP. A1 on the phone, well presented - always. Age 25 up, but not too far up. London location, easy to get to by bus, tube or B.R. Ring now.
 The leisure industry is very popular!

MARY OVERTON

35 PICCADILLY, LONDON W1V 9PB. TEL: 01-734 7282

MACKAY for Secretaries

OPEN THURSDAYS UNTIL 7PM

PA £14,000
 Do you enjoy working on a one-to-one basis? Then this permanent job with this international holding company. Your role involves a high admin content as well as travel arrangements and controlling the busy diary. Superior located in spectacular new offices.
 Call Glynda Ranger

PERSONNEL SEC £13,000
 No shorthand! No audit! The security of this permanent job with this international holding company. Your role involves a high admin content as well as travel arrangements and controlling the busy diary. Superior located in spectacular new offices.
 Call Glynda Ranger

EXEC FLOAT SEC £14,000
 Long leave, LV's 1957L. Combine the security of this permanent job with the variety of assisting the Director within the executive team of this international company. You will have your own office, become involved in interesting projects and handle confidential matters. S/H essential.
 Call Glynda Ranger

The Specialist Recruitment Consultancy for Secretaries!
 Our Fax No for CV's is 01409 2555
 70-71 New Bond Street, W1 (Oxford St, end) 01-481 0383

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
 Friendly/Professional Secretarial business looking for a self motivated / positive thinking interviewers with proven employment agency experience having worked in W/End a definite advantage.
REALISTIC GOOD BASIC PLUS 10% COMMISSION ON ALL PLACEMENTS.
RING JOYCE POOLEY ON 323 5090.

NEW VENTURE
 Self-starter to assist entrepreneur set up international business near Harrogate. Could be part-time. Good secretarial skills essential, foreign language useful. NS preferred. Salary negotiable. Write with CV to: Humphrey Mews, 15 Phoenix Lodge, Brook Green, W8 7BG or phone 084-881 307.

SECRETARY/ASSISTANT - Literature

An experienced Secretary/Assistant is required with excellent typing, word processing and audio skills. Shorthand would be an advantage.
 This is a responsible and varied 'front line' job. The successful candidate will work primarily for the Director and the Literature Officer, but will be an integral part of this small and busy team.
 Salary on a scale £10,250-£12,312 pa, including current Secretarial Allowance. Flex-time, non-contributory pension scheme.
 For an application form and job description, please contact the Personnel and Training Department, Arts Council, 105 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AU. Tel: 01-629 9495 ext 266. Closing date for receipt of applications: 21st February 1990.

The Arts Council has an Equal Opportunities recruitment policy. It warmly welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

MANPOWER

"No-one listens to what I want, so I'll never get the right job!"
 Well fortunately that is not true of everyone. At Manpower, we do listen.
 We know that what matters to you matters to us and to your potential employer.
 We measure your skills, train you free of charge and even give you new qualifications to increase your prospects.
 Then we match you to jobs to which you are exactly suited.
 In short, Manpower will get the right permanent job for you.
 Call us today to find out more on
01-486 7865

Create an Impression c. £19,000

Dynamic Chairman of highly successful communications company seeks an equally dynamic Personal Assistant. Can you match his expectations?

You need poise and maturity to cope with the demands when the pressure is on, and the patience and understanding to keep calm in a crisis. You must be continuously one step ahead, alert, accurate and meticulous to co-ordinate, liaise and organise effectively.
 Senior level PLC experience and a financial background needed to understand the variety of his business concerns. Skills 100/60/WP. Age 28 - 40.
 Please telephone Fiona Marriott on 01-434 4512

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

JILLIAN PERRY ASSOCIATES RECRUITMENT
SO, YOU WOULDN'T ENJOY WORKING FOR A MERCHANT BANKER!
 We have openings in Media, TV, PR, Advertising, Property, and Banking amongst others. If you have secretarial experience and are looking for a change of scene with a higher salary, call us now on 01 287 3520 or fax CV's on 01 287 8678.
 Jillian Perry Associates, 4th Floor, 25-7 Oxford Street, London, W1R 1RF.

CHAIRMAN'S SOCIAL PA £18 + MS + BONUS

Chairman of US financial empire in SW1 needs a polished performance from a French-speaking PA who'll complement his considerable skills. He's a stimulating person who enjoys his business & social life to the full and his ideal PA is enthusiastic, businesslike, positive, well-presented, dedicated and someone who can organise with regimental precision - without being a prima donna! 90/65 + WP skills. Age 25-35.

JIGSAW

RECRUITMENT

LOVE PEOPLE, HATE ROUTINE?

Enthusiastic, positive and entrepreneurial? As a recruitment consultant with us you are firmly in charge of your own destiny and enjoy both autonomy and the moral support of your colleagues. Aged 25-50, you have at least 2 years' experience of recruitment experience + the potential to be more than a number 2! Your energy and expertise can provide you with tremendous job satisfaction in a professional expanding consultancy + a salary package that adds up to £25,000-£30,000 a year.
 Call LYNN CECIL on 377 8600 until 2.00 p.m. today, or 439 4344 from then on

Call 439 7001 WEST END

SECRETARIES PLUS

SECRETARIES PLUS

The Secretarial Consultants

RECRUITMENT PROFESSIONALS LET'S TALK

This year will see explosive growth in La Creme. Growth that will be fuelled by our existing, highly talented team supported by new blood and new ideas.
 If you know the Central London Permanent or Temporary secretarial markets well - it's time to talk.
 Call Ian Archibald on 01-481 1868.

La Creme
LA CREME RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

RECEPTION SELECTION

EXECUTIVE RECEPTIONIST

£13,200 + PAID O/T + BONUS
 Highly professional West End PLC seeks a high calibre receptionist. Common sense, flexibility and a willing quick thinking attitude is needed to deal with the variety and pace within this respected organisation. (Only basic typing required).
CALL NOW

ASTLEY WHARTON DAVIS
 RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS
 CALL CAROLINE WHARTON OR JULIA DAVIS ON
01-839 7866

RECEPTIONIST 25-35 with initiative to greet visitors and handle the telephone. This is an exciting, busy receptionist role in a large, modern, multi-branch organisation where you can use your skills and initiative to help the company. Excellent salary, benefits and training. Please call Virginia 01-481 1868.

EXECUTIVE Receptionist position with well known City professional. This is the opportunity for a true professional to develop their career in a fast-moving and challenging environment.
 Age 25-40
 City Office
 Angela Mortimer Ltd
 Tel: 01 726 8491
 ANGELA MORTIMER

COLLEGE TO CAREER

COLLEGE LEAVE £10,000-£20,000. Our clients are looking for a bright, enthusiastic, well-presented, confident, and motivated individual to join their team. The role offers a career path for a confident, ambitious person who feels frustrated and in need of a challenge. Salary £15,000+ minimum. Please call Caroline 01-481 1868, La Creme Consultants.

NON-SECRETARIAL

c£12,000 p/yr
 Interesting/boring opportunity: MD of Covent Garden creating advertising agency needs driver for 12 months (prel. in SW6).
 Chance to learn business, but must be prepared for mundane 'Golf Friday' tasks. Typing essential, as is a driving licence. Flexible on hours. Some travel/some weekends.
 c£12,000 p/yr (£8,000 + overtime) and private use of car.
 Please telephone Claire Sharpe: 01-379 6551.

PERSONNEL People. If you have a minimum of a month's experience in recruitment, we have a fantastic opportunity for you to join our team. You will be responsible for the recruitment of new staff to our company. This is a challenging role for a confident, ambitious person who feels frustrated and in need of a challenge. Salary £15,000+ minimum. Please call Caroline 01-481 1868, La Creme Consultants.

01-481 4481

PERSON FOR FUTURE

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MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

SHEILA BURGESS INTERNATIONAL PERSONNEL COUNSELLORS

PARIS

"Les perles rares..." Where are you?
With so many new firms opening offices in Paris, the demand for competent bilingual secretarial staff is on the increase.
Our clients seek graduates (or equivalent) with a very high level of fluency in French combined with solid secretarial training (min. 4 years). English and/or French B1 will provide you with a wider choice.
With over 10 years' experience in international recruitment, Sheila Burgess International has established a reputation for its professionalism in advising qualified bilingual Secretaries and Administrative Assistants in "finding their feet" abroad and recommending the best opportunities.

LONDON

PRESTIGIOUS FRENCH BANK in City requires a PA/Secretary for Personnel Department. Must be English mother-tongue with excellent French, a good communicator/organiser with a professional approach. c. £13,500 + banking benefits.
LANGUAGE SCHOOL in WEST LONDON seeks Course Coordinator. Excellent career move for mature French national with fluent English, a good keyboard skills, a pedagogical background and a desire to work in commercial environment. c. £14,000.
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR of leading French bank needs PA/Secretary, English mother-tongue, fluent French, B1, confidence and sparkle required. £15,000 + banking benefits.
NB: All candidates undergo language and secretarial tests as well as an interview to ascertain which positions correspond to their particular aptitudes.

The French House, 100, Regent Street, London W1A 2AB
Tel: 01 629 6671 Fax: 01 629 6672
17 rue de la Paix, 75001 Paris
Tel: 01 42 52 12 31 Fax: 01 42 52 12 32

Savoir Faire £18,000 SW1

If you are looking for that one-off job which makes the most of your organisational ability and interpersonal skills, then we are looking for you. A highly successful, but demanding American businessman with varied international interests requires a PA with fluent French to assist him in all areas of his work and personal life. Specific responsibilities will include setting up meetings and social functions, co-ordinating travel arrangements for his family, dealing with staff in his various households and, on very rare occasions, you may be asked to travel abroad. Candidates must have a calm manner, adaptable attitude and a sense of humour and commitment as well as good typing (60wpm/WP). Age 28-40. For further details, please call
Samantha Brander on 01-457 6032, Victoria House, 99 Regent Street London W1. Fax: 01-494 0607

HOBSTONES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SUPER SECRETARIES

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

required for busy three partner firm of Chartered Accountants in riverside offices near Tower Bridge. Might suit college leaver, but knowledge of Wordperfect and general office skills important. Good telephone manner and cheerful personality essential. Good salary.
Please call Susan on 231 8761.
No agencies please.

LUNZER WINES LIMITED, LONDON EC1

are looking for an articulate, energetic and personable person to oversee the running of our office.
We offer an excellent opportunity to learn THE FINE WINE TRADE together with a good salary and bonus.
Please call Peter Lunzer on 01-739 0306

MULTILINGUAL SERVICES

FRENCH: Autonomous role for bilingual Assistant-Secretary - you will run the office for the Sales Manager (French), handle logistics, stock control, accounts, customer liaison, help with translating/copy writing and edit his English. To £15,000.
GERMAN: Banking with a marketing flavour - bilingual Assistant-Secretary - you will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. Excellent languages and skills, plus a financial background. To £14,000 + package.
FRENCH: New job with Vice President, Mergers & Acquisitions division of US bank. As his Bilingual Secretary you will organise his working schedule and tips, handle administration, mail, phone calls etc. Very fluent French and English. To £14,500 plus package.

01 836 3794
22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0HR

Career PA

£18,000 + full banking package

To support the figurehead of a major international bank requires a professional, dedicated PA with the flexibility to adapt to any situation.
Our client, a leading US investment house with a substantial UK and European presence, is looking for a French speaking PA to work for their Chairman. This position requires interaction at all levels within the bank while fulfilling a confidential PA role. Good secretarial skills, including shorthand, and Board level experience essential. Age 25-35.
Please telephone Nicolette Agnew on 01-434 4512

Crone Corkill Multilingual

Neue Grenzen Design £15,000

Berlin's on one line and Munich's on the other you need the one who is the charming European Marketing Director of 'State of the Art' design consultants, has just asked you to organise a conference in Dusseldorf and this is not out of the ordinary! To rise to this challenge you will need fluent German, good typing and the ability to juggle ten things at once. 'A' levels preferred. Age 23-35. Please call Samantha Brander on 01-457 6032, Victoria House, 99-101 Regent Street, London W1. Fax: 01-494 0607.

HOBSTONES RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Bilinguasec

TEMPORARILY BILINGUAL ?? IMMEDIATE BOOKINGS, TOP RATES PAID

Use your flair for languages and top level secretarial skills to the full. Have fun in Fashion, Finance or even Films working for our exciting international clientele.
Phone Sharon now to join our expanding Temp Team. 01-493 8446 Rec Cons.

GERMAN/ENGLISH PART TIME 12.00pm - 5.00pm

Part time Secretary/PA with good shorthand and typing speeds in German and English. Capable of conducting own correspondence and dealing with suppliers/business. Oxford Circus vicinity.
Salary approx £11,000 pa.
Tel: Mr Ehrlich 637 4056

PART TIME VACANCIES

RECEPTIONIST - afternoons five days a week for 12 months. Good English and German. Must be able to handle the telephone. Salary £10,000 per annum. Tel: 01-434 4512.
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TEMPING TIMES

BANKING BOOKINGS TO £9.00 per hour

Microtyped Temp agency bookings for City Banks. Ongoing bookings of £9.00 per hour. Tel: 01-434 4512.

HOBSTONES

SUPER SECRETARIES

Miss Secretary SHORTHAND SECRETARIES £12,500-16,000

We have many vacancies with dynamic progressive companies. Please apply for details to:
01-287 0570
Miss Secretary Rec Cons

INTERIOR DESIGN

Small and handy interior design company based in West End requires junior secretary/general assistant. Good typing skills and pleasant telephone manner essential. 1st job. M-F 9.30-5.30. Salary: £8,000.
Contact: Karen Ivory on 01 437 8487

PART TIME P.A./GIRL FRIDAY

Small company, Mole/Seaford top management. Congenial conditions. Experienced, flexible, sense of humour. M-F 9.30-5.30. Tel: 01 837 3388 extension 312/313.

EFFICIENT, intelligent secretary

required for office environment in research and publishing in area of international relations. Must be a 'natural' for influential Board Director, who travels between London and Paris. Please contact us now on 01-287 0570.

PA/Secretary

£18,000. You will be in a fast-growing company in the City or West End. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office. Excellent languages and skills, plus a financial background. To £14,000 + package.

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A CITY SECRETARY IN THE 90's

We are retained by a major City client to co-ordinate their secretarial recruitment. If you are an ambitious secretary seeking a City career in a prestigious company you can expect:

- Mortgage benefit worth minimum £3,000
- Sound City training
- Internal promotion
- Young, happy environment
- Convenient location - 3 mins mainline station
- Interest free season ticket loan
- Low interest personal loan
- Christmas bonus
- Profit share
- Free BUPA
- Lunch/leisure vouchers
- Subsidised restaurant
- Sports and social club
- Career advice

For further details about the career move you have been waiting for please contact MacLain Nash City Secs (Rec Cons) 872 8887.

MACLAIN NASH RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

ADMINISTRATOR/OIL INDUSTRY

Working for this dynamic team of Oil Brokers, yours will be a varied and responsible role, and your proven administrative skills will be thoroughly utilised.

Apart from office management and general bookkeeping, you will provide back-up to the team and liaise with clients on the telephone.
Good telephone manner. 50 wpm typing WP exp useful. Age 25+.
Salary £14,000 + early review + BUPA.
Call Helen 01 - 839 7099
(NO AGENCIES PLS)

A NEW OPPORTUNITY

£14,000 + CAR PARKING + ...
Bosch, permanent, quick training, well presented, non-smoking PA/Secretary required for Essex Agents in 1st 5 mins from Liverpool Street Station. WP and numerical aptitude essential and the ability to organise and control a young friendly office.
Phone Laura Harris NOW on 01 954 7559
(No Agencies Please)

SECRETARY

With shorthand/audio skills and word processing experience required by Partner/Director of a Property and Financial Consultancy in Mayfair. Small busy and friendly team. Salary £13,500 negotiable.
Telephone: Tim Horgan 01-491 2992.
No Agencies Please.

PA/Secretary

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SECRETARY/PA IN PROPERTY

Based near Oxford Circus we seek a first rate Audio Secretary (min. 50 wpm) keen to become involved in day-to-day duties associated with property management.

Conveniently located in modern offices, we are a friendly, young team and offer a generous salary plus bonus, four weeks holiday and interest-free season ticket loan.
Tel: 01-975 1700 (Ext. 1) for further details or forward your CV to the address shown.

LAMBERT SMITH HAMPTON

33 CAVENDISH SQ. LONDON W1M 0AL

ADMINISTRATOR/OIL INDUSTRY

Working for this dynamic team of Oil Brokers, yours will be a varied and responsible role, and your proven administrative skills will be thoroughly utilised.

Apart from office management and general bookkeeping, you will provide back-up to the team and liaise with clients on the telephone.
Good telephone manner. 50 wpm typing WP exp useful. Age 25+.
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Phone Laura Harris NOW on 01 954 7559
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By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Return of the renter

A growing number of people prefer not to buy homes, and building societies are moving in to meet their needs

Michael Spicer, the Housing Minister, announced last week that in the past year £370 million had been invested in private rented housing under the Business Expansion Scheme, which gives tax relief for investment in this sector. This means the creation of about 7,000 extra homes. Spicer emphasized: "The Government is determined to stem what many saw as a terminal decline in the private rented sector, which now accounts for just 8 per cent of housing in this country, compared with 90 per cent in 1919."

Allowing the BES to be used for such investment was a government initiative under the Finance Act 1988. The Housing Act 1988 gave another boost to the market by deregulating new letting by private landlords and bringing in assured tenancies at market rents.

Building societies have been taking up the private rental market challenge. Nationwide Agents was one of the first to enter it on a large scale when it set up Quality Street, which has completed its first 18 months of operation. It has invested £75 million in rented housing, providing 1,200 units under management, and will follow this with another £200 million over the next two years.

Paul Mugnaini, Quality Street's chairman, writes in its annual report that if the rented housing market is to continue to grow, the Government should work towards creating the conditions for a single housing market, with a smoother curve between

rent levels in the public and private sectors, and even-handedness between the fiscal treatment of renters and mortgagees. He says there should be tax relief for those wanting to rent, just as housebuyers receive mortgage relief.

The Woolwich Building Society, which has formed a subsidiary to invest in private rented housing, has let nearly all the 70 homes on its first four developments. Woolwich Assured Homes will first concentrate on south-east London and north-west Kent, providing 200 homes in the first year, and 1,000 within four years.

The Woolwich believes its name is helping to give confidence to prospective tenants who do not want the responsibility of owning a home or for whom owner-

occupation is impractical at certain times of their lives. A typical rent for a two-bedroom flat, including central heating, carpets and curtains, in the Dartford, Kent, area will be £390, plus service charge of £17 a month. With a 100 per cent mortgage, the same property, valued at £71,750, would cost £805 a month.

In London, the rental market continues to thrive in the absence of confidence in the sales market. PKL, a leading rental agency, reports a 40 per cent increase in the past year.

Growing activity is also observed by Joanne Hamilton, residential lettings director at Barnard Marcus, who says that the sales slump has brought many would-be vendors, as well as would-be first-time buyers, into

the rental market. A completely new breed of tenant has emerged — those who have actually sold a property and put the money on deposit, with the interest paying the rent. Barnard Marcus has also seen a considerable increase in the number of properties on its books from private vendors unable to sell.

Rental returns have mostly increased in percentage terms in relation to rental values. Hamilton says: "A house with a sale price of £220,000 in mid-1988 had a weekly rental of £300. Now the price would be £180,000 and the rental £350, but with high-interest rates and stiffer mortgage payments to meet, landlords are not necessarily feeling better off."

Commenting on the effect of the Housing Act 1988, Philippa

Heumann, head of Savills' Sloane Street rentals division, says that though there has not been a flood of assured-shorthold tenancies, it is proving an extremely useful alternative to the company let, and she envisages it being used more and more.

Many landlords still prefer company lets because they are dealing with a corporate body rather than an individual who cannot always be contacted. Yet the percentage of company versus individual tenancies has changed slightly towards the latter. At Savills, 86 per cent of the lets are to companies, 11 per cent to individuals and 3 per cent to embassies.

It would be a prosperous individual who could afford from £650 to a negotiable £1,500 a week, at a newly refurbished block on London's Chelsea Embankment. Marven Smith Associates is offering 11 apartments in Cheyne House, designed in 1875-76 by the architect Norman Shaw.



This Grade II listed windmill, with planning consent for conversion into a house, is in the grounds of Mill Farm House at Burton Pidsea, near Hull, for sale at £250,000 through Carter Jonas's York office

IN THE MARKET

Church End house in Epsworth, Oxfordshire, is a former 18th-century vicarage which contained six cottages, now used as a study. The owners have carried out extensive improvements, but the old chapel retains its stained glass lancet windows. In addition to the study, the house has two reception rooms and four bedrooms, while the east wing could be used as separate accommodation or as part of the main house. Cluttons' Oxford

office is asking for offers around £420,000.

Lyndale House is a Grade II listed house on Highgate Hill, close to the centre of Highgate Village, north London, built with the adjacent trellis house as a single property in the early 18th century. The house has a red brick, the house has three reception rooms, including a paneled study, and five bedrooms. At the rear is a secluded 200ft garden with

brick walling dating back in part to the early 17th century. Winkworth's Highgate offices is asking £850,000.

The Dingle, at Nether Whitacre, in the middle of the north Warwickshire countryside, dates back to the 16th century, with Victorian additions. It still has the original tiled oven in the kitchen, and the house has exposed wall and ceiling timbers, an oak staircase and curved timber fireplaces. There are three reception rooms and four bedrooms, plus a conservatory,

and the property has grounds of about four acres. Knight Frank & Rutley's Stratford-upon-Avon office is asking for offers around £425,000.

The 19th-century Abbotsfield South, Wiveliscombe, Somerset, was built by Owen Jones, who assisted Brunel in building Paddington Station. This unusual property with a 42 foot bedroom/lounge, three bedrooms and a conservatory, is for sale through Gribble Booth & Taylor of Wiveliscombe at £170,000.

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CRICKET: GOOCH SETS OFF FOR THE WEST INDIES WITH A TEAM WHOSE FRESHNESS BORDERS ON INNOCENCE

RUGBY UNION

Now to England's winter of content

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

Time, it seems, can heal the most grievous wounds; dispense the ugliest memories. England's cricketers have not played a Test match since September, when they were widely vilified for their ineptitude. Today they leave for the West Indies, illogically but infectious believing that they can beat the best team in the world.

Behind the conviction - which, oddly enough, appears to be shared by an increasing number of the usually cynical public - lies something more than bravado.

There is a genuine mood of optimism in the camp, a communal notion that the winter's Caribbean activity will provide fresh evidence of life in an area of British sport which has had the undertakers' surgery round with professional interest for some while.

England's reasons for being cheerful might not be instantly obvious to the uncommitted. After all, a 4-0 reversal on home soil against Australia would not seem ideal preparation for renewing acquaintance with the team which has not lost a match, much less a series, against England for 16 years.

There is also the nagging matter of how England's already limited resources have been minimised by 16 defections to South Africa, many of them players of proven quality.

Omitting David Gower and Ian Botham from the tour squad has not, in many people's view, done anything to increase England's prospects of success. Perhaps here lies

ENGLAND TOUR PARTY

| | Age | Tests |
|---|-----|-------|
| G A Gooch (Essex, captain) | 36 | 78 |
| A J Lamb (Northamptonshire, vice-captain) | 35 | 57 |
| R J Bailey (Northamptonshire) | 28 | 11 |
| D J Capel (Northamptonshire) | 26 | 1 |
| P A J DeFreitas (Lancashire) | 26 | 13 |
| R M Elcock (Middlesex) | 24 | 0 |
| A R C Fraser (Middlesex) | 24 | 0 |
| E E Hemmings (Nottinghamshire) | 40 | 9 |
| E Hussain (Essex) | 21 | 0 |
| W Larkin (Northamptonshire) | 26 | 1 |
| D E Malcolm (Derbyshire) | 26 | 6 |
| K T Medlycott (Surrey) | 24 | 0 |
| R C Russell (Gloucestershire) | 24 | 0 |
| G C Small (Worcestershire) | 28 | 6 |
| R A Smith (Hampshire) | 26 | 8 |
| A J Stewart (Surrey) | 26 | 0 |

the nub of the issue, for, by consigning so many stalwarts of recent campaigns to yesterday's news, the England management has consciously created an environment in which old prejudices and preconceptions have no part.

Depressing dressing-room chat recalling previous Caribbean torture will be in refreshingly short supply because only Graham Gooch and Alan Lamb, the captain and the vice-captain, have toured there before. Indeed, Gooch and Lamb's aggregate of 130 Test caps compares with a total of 65 among the remaining 14 players, graphically confirming that England are setting out with a team whose freshness borders on innocence.

Nowhere is this more evident than among the bowlers, where the senior, in terms of Test wickets, is Phil DeFreitas. His 26 victims, however, have cost 50 runs apiece, and he is only on the plane by courtesy of a late rethink of a decision to go to South Africa.

DeFreitas's support, in the fast bowling section, comes

from Gladstone Small (24 Test wickets), David Capel (12), Angus Fraser (9), Devon Malcolm (1) and Ricky Elcock, who has yet to play. For the life of me, I fail to imagine any scenario in which this attack will dismiss the West Indies twice in a match and, as opportunity for the spin bowlers, Eddie Hemmings and Keith Medlycott, will be strictly limited, the chances of England winning a Test seem extremely remote.

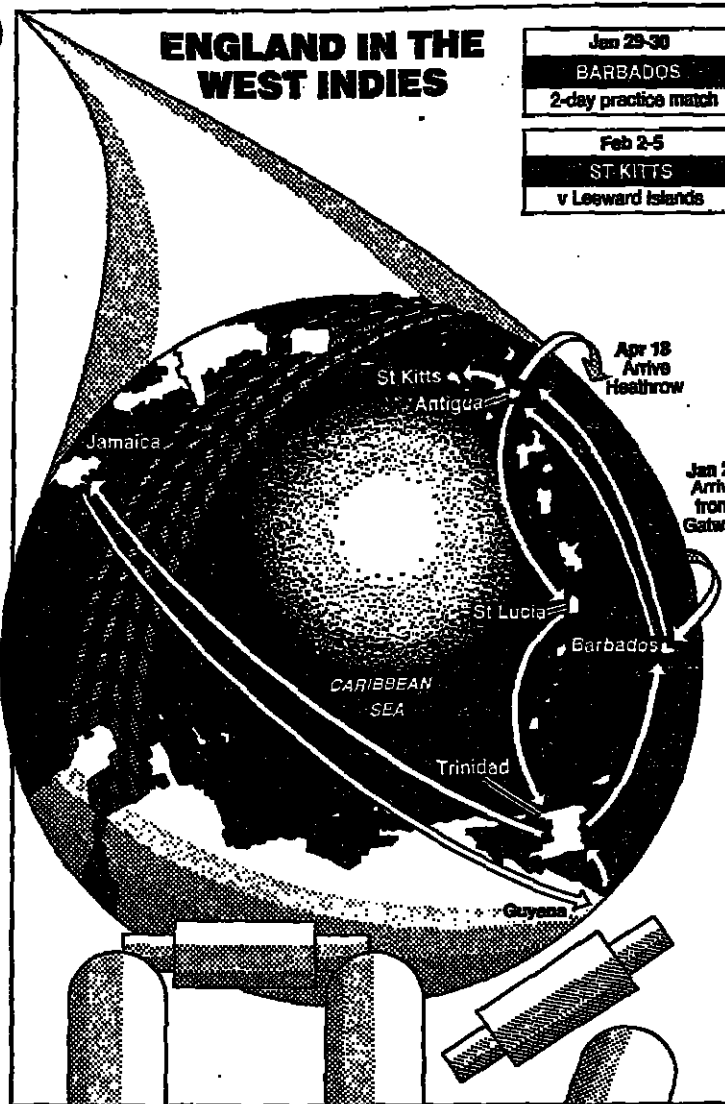
This, however, does not mean that Gooch's team will necessarily raise the white flag with quite the spectacular style of their recent predecessors. Indeed, I am full of hope that the chances between England and the West Indies will be a figure all realists will consider quite admirable.

The proviso is that England can sustain team spirit through the crucial opening month. For, although this tour will, it is hoped, be free of the political harassment which blighted the last two Caribbean trips, it remains no place for the weak or the impressionable.

The series begins in Jamaica, which in itself is the most awesome obstacle for this team to overcome. Four years ago, as Gooch and Lamb will need no reminding, England lost an alarming Test at Sabina Park by 10 wickets. It was played on a reaid pitch of such unpredictable venom that batting against the likes of Marshall and Patterson became a lottery without winners.

Three days before the Test, England's confidence had

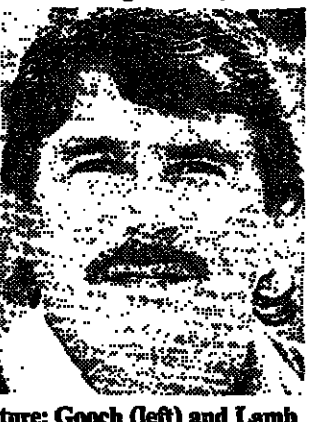
ENGLAND IN THE WEST INDIES



| Date | Match |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Jan 29-30 | BARBADOS 2-day practice match |
| Feb 2-5 | ST KITTS v Leeward Islands |
| Feb 6-11 | ST LUCIA v Windward Islands |
| Feb 14 | TRINIDAD 1st 1-day international |
| Feb 17 | TRINIDAD 2nd 1-day international |
| Feb 19-21 | JAMAICA v Jamaica |
| Feb 24-Mar 1 | TRINIDAD v President's XI |
| Mar 3 | TRINIDAD 3rd 1-day international |
| Mar 7 | GUYANA 4th 1-day international |
| Mar 10-16 | TRINIDAD v President's XI |
| Mar 17-20 | TRINIDAD v President's XI |
| Mar 22-28 | BARBADOS v Barbados |
| Mar 30-Apr 1 | BARBADOS v Barbados |
| Apr 3 | GUYANA 5th 1-day international |
| Apr 5-10 | ANTIGUA v Antigua |
| Apr 12-17 | ANTIGUA v Antigua |



No strangers to Caribbean torture: Gooch (left) and Lamb



Debate on four-day proposals

By Martin Searby

The great debate on four-day county cricket will be given a public airing next week when Cecil Woodhouse, the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board's cricket committee, and Peter Edwards, the chief executive of Essex, put the case respectively for and against the proposals for a 16-match championship.

The leading lights in an argument which presently has four counties (Derbyshire are the latest) halting their membership will take place before the Derbyshire Cricket Board's county cricket committee on February 1. Five days later, the Derbyshire committee will study the results of a questionnaire before voting.

"We held a straw poll at the annual meeting and it appeared most members were against," Christopher Middleton, the chairman of Derbyshire, said. "But we will have a first class opportunity to hear the case for both sides as well as considering the results of our ballot before we make up our collective mind."

Derbyshire, with 1,500 members, may well hold the balance in power in what Michael Turner, the experienced chief executive of Leicestershire, believes will be a close-run thing. "I personally believe there is too much cricket played in England," he said. "Counties are understandably reluctant to give up the revenue of the one-day game, of which there is also too much, but too many decisions are made on purely financial grounds. I think the vote in favour of change will narrowly fail, which is something I would regret."

The Sussex committee meet on Monday while Glamorgan will decide only after they have studied the final recommendations of the board.

Tony Vann, the Yorkshire member who instigated the grassroots opposition, said: "Those counties who have not taken the trouble to consult their membership can hardly ignore the figures when they are announced since Lancashire, Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Derbyshire make up a substantial percentage of cricket's total membership."

The TCCB's cricket committee voted in favour of the change to four-day fixtures on Monday when Brian Close, the Yorkshire chief chairman, was one of two dissenting voices. The full board meets on March 6 and 7 to decide the issue.

Jones denies Imran reward for well-judged declaration

From John Woodcock, Adelaide

Although Imran Khan said last night that he was "really very disappointed" that Pakistan had not won the second Test match, he must, in his own mind, have been profoundly thankful not to have lost it. It was a fine match, albeit with a rather flat ending, and the draw means that Pakistan have an even chance of levelling the series in the third and final Test which starts in Sydney on Saturday week.

Having been set 304 to win in a minimum of 78 overs, Australia finished with 233 for six. Two days earlier nothing could have seemed less likely than that the time would come in the same match when two Australian batsmen would take as shamefully long to get to the crease as Peter Taylor and Hughes did yesterday, when time was running out.

Twenty overs from the start of the last hour are not mandatory in this series, but nothing could better have illustrated why it is a better game when they are than the way Taylor and Hughes wasted time.

It was not enough even for the Pakistanis to take the field encrusted in sun cream. The temperature reached three figures, as did Dean Jones for the second time in the match. Tausert, bowling off breaks, was turning the ball out of the rough much as he had done in the first Test, but he was bowled out by the wicket, and Ricketts and Waugh, when they had bowled round it, and Jones's footwork, as he danced out another spin, was both adventurous and calculating. Jones's last four Test innings at Adelaide have been 216 and six against West Indies and 116 and now 121 not out against Pakistan.

Australia were not to be

expected to go for the runs yesterday at the risk of losing the match. Such things do not happen in Test cricket. Marsh, too, was suffering from a broken finger, which restricted his action only as a potential buffer later in the order, and Boon had not fielded on Monday because of a damaged knee.

Even so, in the relief of having risen from the grave, Pakistan must have taken Australia by surprise when they declared. Whatever Imran may say, the side's chances of bowling Australia out in anything less than a day were remote enough for their prime concern to have been the saving of the game.

If not on a par with Sobers's declaration at Port of Spain in 1967-68, when he left England to score 215 in 165 minutes and England won, Imran's was generous all the same.

It was also the making of the day's cricket, and when Waugh was fourth out at 129, with 216 hours left, there was a real chance that Pakistan would gain a victory to compare, for probability, with England's against Australia at Headingley in 1981, when they were bowled out from the brink of defeat. Eight runs after Waugh was bowled, down the pitch to Tausert, Jones survived a difficult return catch to Mushian, which had it been held, would have put Pakistan very much on the scent.

Pakistan bowled well, even without Imran taking the ball. He said he was afraid of the footings. Waugh reported his captain's confidence in giving him the new ball with a good, lively spell, but no one, Jones included, contributed more to the day than Tausert and Mushian, the Pakistan spinners, who first pegged Australia

back when Mark Taylor and Jones were starting to go too well for Pakistan's comfort, and then put Australia themselves under pressure.

What finally decided Australia to call off the chase, insofar as they had ever committed themselves to one, was the fact that Pakistan needed to bowl only 12 overs in the last hour, enough simply to complete the 78 which had been required of them. Had it suited them, that, no doubt, is all they would have bowled. Otherwise we might have had a finish worthy of the match.

PAKISTAN: First innings 257 (Ismail 52, Wasim Akram 52, G R Ricketts 4 for 40).
Shoaib Mohammad c Healy b Hughes 0
Rameez Raja c Waugh b Hughes 0
Saeed Anwar c Taylor b Hughes 13
Ijaz Ahmed c P L Taylor b Hughes 4
Imran Khan b P L Taylor 136
David Ward c P L Taylor b Hughes 2
Wasim Akram c Campbell 123
Salim Malik not out 65
Fazael Ahmed c Healy b Ricketts 14
Mushian Ahmed b P L Taylor 14
Tausert 11 (b, 5, 1, 1, 3)
Total (all batsmen) 257
Wagor Younus did not bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-2, 3-7, 4-22, 5-0, 6-21, 7-31, 8-30, 9-37.
SLOWING: Hughes 32-5-11.5 (b, 1, 2); Campbell 29-5-51.1; Ricketts 37-11-51.1; P L Taylor 41-5-33-8-2; Bowler 40-1-11.1.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 341 (M Jones 116, M A Taylor 77, Wasim Akram 5 for 100).
D C Boon c Rameez b Akram 5
G A Taylor c Sub b Hughes 5
A R Border c Younis b Waugh 5
D M Jones not out 121
S R Waugh b Tausert 12
I A Healy c Sub b Tausert 27
P L Taylor c Ricketts b Tausert 7
Ricketts 14 (b, 3, 3, 3, 3)
Extras (b, 3, 1, 3) 14
Total (all batsmen) 341
G R Ricketts 4 for 283
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-3, 3-106, 4-129, 5-213, 6-225.
SLOWING: Akram 32-5-11.5 (b, 1, 2); Waugh 14-4-21.1; Tausert 31-6-75.1 (b, 1); Mushian 25-5-72.1 (b, 1); Shoaib 20-12-0.

Otago's fortunes did not improve in their next match, when they were bowled out for 57 by Wellington, Millmow taking six for 13. In Otago's second innings, Rutherford scored 146 but failed to avert defeat.

Auckland, the holders, lead the table with 815 points after beating Northern Districts by an innings in two days. Pat secured another hundred for Auckland and Northern Districts were dismissed for 79 in the first innings, Snedden taking six for 20.

start of the series is enough. A disproportionate responsibility rests upon Gooch and Lamb, not only to make runs but to inspire confidence. There was a time when the latter seemed beyond them both, for different reasons, but Gooch has positively adapted his personality to the needs of leadership, and Lamb, while retaining the effectiveness which allows no one to malin-

ger, has gained a welcome touch of maturity. The essential thing is that both men appear to be relishing their elevated status and, given a few innings of flair from Robin Smith, Wayne Larkins and perhaps Nasser Hussain, it is not impossible that England could arrive in Antigua almost three months from now with their heads held unfamilarly high.

Arduous test faces New Zealanders

New Plymouth (AP) - The New Zealand President's XI moved to 214 for four in their first innings at the close of play yesterday, on the second day of a four-day match against the Indians at Pukekura Park.

The President's XI, comprised largely of young players on the verge of Test selection, were replying to India's first innings total of 212.

The New Zealanders, who require 98 runs to avoid the follow-on, were tied down for long periods by a fine performance from Narendra Hirwani, the leg spinner.

Hirwani, 21, did not take a wicket on a well-behaved pitch more suited to run-getting than spin bowling, but he delivered a remarkably tight 21 overs at a cost of only 22 runs.

India had resumed yesterday morning at 431 for six and rarely dropped below a scoring rate of a run a minute.

For the President's XI Jonathon Millmow, the paceman, took five for 127 from 27 overs.

Grafton (AFP) - The touring New South Wales defeated a New South Wales Country XI by four runs in a one-day game at McKerrill Park yesterday.

New South Wales batted first and scored 162 for nine in their 50 overs and Sri Lanka reached 165 for seven in 48. The fast bowler, Ravi Ratnayake, clinched victory for the Sri Lankans with a four.

Athula Samarasekera, the opener, hit 16 off the first over to give the Sri Lankans a flying start in their innings. He was showing the same spirit of the first time since it was introduced in 1982-83.

Western Province, for whom Kuiper scored his third century of the season to raise his average to around 120, hold the advantage, having emphatically beaten Eastern Province in the last round of section matches. The holders, however, possess a pair of match-winning bowlers in Maguire and McCurdy.

Leeward Islands, who have never won the Caribbean domestic first-class competition, recorded their third victory in three Red Stripe Cup matches this year, beating Trinidad and Tobago by eight wickets.

Fears that some of the game's most talented young players will be lost unless the present selection procedures for representative teams at schools 18 Group level are revised have been voiced by Cheshire, following the announcement of the North team to meet the South and South-West at Walsingham on Saturday.

Cheshire dominated the northern division this season, with a perfect record and a tally of 227 points against 34. They had comprehensive wins over Yorkshire, who have seven players in the North team, and Lancashire, who have four. Yet only Cheshire's front row players have made the divisional side.

Cheshire's schools committee see more talented players joining the county from rugby schools unless "an elitist system" is introduced. The 18 Group level appears to favour the major counties, the traditional schools, and players with under-16 international experience, is changed.

This appears to be a challenge to Cheshire's highly successful team

Teague to present a forceful case for his place in Paris

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Both Mike Teague and Mickey Skinner, contenders for a back-row place in England's XV to play France next month, will present forceful arguments when playing for their respective clubs in the third round of the Pilkington Cup on Saturday.

Teague will be at No. 8 in the Gloucester team to play Wasps at Sudbury, while Skinner is on the flank in the Harlequins XV to play Bath, the cup holders, at the Recreation Ground.

"I was not happy sitting on the replacements' bench for England against Ireland," Teague said. "I will do it again in Paris if I have to, but I want to show the England selectors that I am fit now, and ready to play if they want me." There have been some comments that Teague might take the "West Country option" if he is overlooked again; that is, retire from international rugby, like Stuart Barnes and John Hall, the two Bath players, an attitude which it must be hoped Teague does not subscribe to.

Gloucester show five changes from the XV which lost 29-4 to Wasps in the league in October. Wasps selected last night, after pondering the position of eight-

head prop Jeff Probyn damaged an ear playing against Ireland at the weekend, and Ian Dunstun, his deputy, was sent off earlier this month.

Bath return from their training camp in Llanwrst to tomorrow, prepared to play a Harlequins XV which includes Gavin Thompson, the England under-21 centre, in preference to Ian Wood, the New Zealander, and Richard Langhorn at No. 8. David Thresher, the England B back-row forward, was not considered because of a broken nose and Stuart, his brother, who has played comparatively little rugby this season, must be content as a second-stringer to the back position going to Rob Gleadler.

Paul Dodge, the Leicester centre and former England captain, is to have an operation on a damaged knee earlier this week, with league action from rugby already stretching back in last November. However, Leicester remain optimistic that Dean Richards, their England No. 8, will have recovered sufficiently from his injury to be a serious contender at the end of February.

Divisional choice causes division

By a Special Correspondent

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follows the recent comments of the All Blacks full back, John Gallagher. He believes problems in England's rugby education in Kent, recalled his own successful school side being overlooked for representative honours with the result that most of his friends turned to other sports.

Cheshire are also disillusioned by the system and have put forward an eight-point plan which includes the adoption of the 16 Group system of independent selectors grading players in their own counties.

The criticism and recommendations are included in a letter sent this week to John Kendall-Carpenter, the president of the English Schools Rugby, to Ron Tennant, the secretary of the Rugby Football Union, and to the England 18 Group coaches and to the North and England selectors.

"We want to be constructive in our criticism," Ray Dawson, a former captain of Yorkshire and one of Cheshire's 18 Group coaches, says.

St Mary's make hard work of it

By Gordon Allan

Guy's Hospital 10
St Mary's Hospital 19

After a hard match with Guy's at Honor Oak Park yesterday, St Mary's, the holders, advanced to the semi-finals of the Hospitals Cup. They won by a goal, a try and three penalty goals to a goal and a try, but did not make sum of it until the last quarter.

Eleven of the St Mary's side appeared in last season's final and two more - Simms, the England centre, and O'Leary, the Wasps forward - could not play yesterday. It was a game won by the forwards, with St Mary's using their greater power in the scrums and expertise in the lineouts to wear down Guy's.

Guy's played sensible, wet-ball rugby, tackling hard and capitalising on St Mary's mistakes. They scored first when the ball was hacked on from a lineout on halfway and Docker ran through a gap at a scrum for a try which Evans converted.

There it stood until just before the interval when Kelly, with the St Mary's No. 8, touched down in the corner.

7.30 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Littlwoods Cup

Fifth round

Southampton v Oldham

Fifth round replays

Coventry v Sunderland (7.45)

Derby v West Ham

Tottenham v North F (7.45)

Tenants Scottish Cup

Third round

Stirling v Stirling A

Third round replays

Stirling v Stirling A

Alloa v Queen of Sts

Hamilton v Dunfermline

Raith v Morton

Inverness C v Airdrie

Zenith Data Systems Cup

Third round

Swindon v Norwich (7.45)

Leyland Daf Trophy

First round

Bristol R v Gillingham (8.0)

QUIZ VAUGHAN CONFERENCE: Bob Lord Trophy: Second round: Welling v Yeovil.

WPS LEAGUE LEAGUE: Welling v Yeovil.

CONTRAST: Welling v Yeovil.

SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Welling v Yeovil.

WELLING HOMES LEAGUE: Welling v Yeovil.

WELLING HOMES LEAGUE: Welling v Yeovil.

a pushover. Guy's, with the wind behind them, set up a couple of other scoring positions.

Two angled penalties by McLaren, one for a head-high tackle on Winton, and St Mary's into the lead early in the second half. But Guy's were soon level.

The rest of the match was played almost exclusively in the Guy's half. Guy's lost their hooker, Misty, who damaged his knee. McLaren kicked his third penalty, and five minutes from the end, the St Mary's pack were unstoppable as they rolled to the line for another pushover try by Kelly, which McLaren converted.

SCORERS: Guy's Hospital: Tries: Docker, Kelly, O'Leary, O'Leary, O'Leary. St Mary's: Tries: Kelly, O'Leary, O'Leary, O'Leary, O'Leary.

GOALS: Guy's Hospital: Tries: Docker, Kelly, O'Leary, O'Leary, O'Leary. St Mary's: Tries: Kelly, O'Leary, O'Leary, O'Leary, O'Leary.

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Leagues to be told of benefits of membership

By Louise Taylor

The All England Netball Association (AENA) is seeking closer liaison with the 300 or so leagues spread around the country. In the past, the AENA has communicated directly with clubs and counties, having virtually no dealings with the leagues.

Now, the AENA's executive committee has decided to take

FOOTBALL: DISGRACED COVENTRY FORWARD FACES THREE-MATCH BAN BUT IS LIKELY MATCH WINNER IN REPLAYED TIE

Speedie exonerated by Sillett and ordered to carry on

By Clive White

David Speedie was yesterday exonerated for his sending off last week at Sunderland by John Sillett, the Coventry City manager, and told to carry on in exactly the same manner for tonight's Littlewoods Cup quarter-final replay against the Wearside.

Speedie and Gary Bennett, of Sunderland, were sent off for fighting and face a three-match suspension, but after watching a video of the incident Sillett pronounced his own "not guilty" verdict. "I think Speedie was harshly treated. He was not to blame for the incident and I don't think it was a case which warranted a sending-off," Sillett said.

Consequently, will not be told to curb his temper for a tie which is particularly important to the Midlands club. Sillett said: "If I tell him to curb his natural aggression and enthusiasm I have lost him as a player. I have to keep him burning inside him but make sure that he keeps it under control."

Sillett sees Speedie, the scorer of Coventry's last three goals, as the most likely match-winner, from the home team's point of view. Though when it comes to scoring goals and winning matches there are not too many candidates for Coventry, who will again be

without Drinkell because of a back injury and also possibly McGrath with a gashed shin. Coventry have scored only once in their last five matches while their record of 18 goals in 23 matches is, with Charlton Athletic, the worst in the League.

Sillett has ordered a "shoot to kill" policy, but one fears that if results do not improve soon Sillett could be the one who gets the bullet. It is that time of year when reality overtakes the dreams of Cup and League glory before clubs hastily make managerial appointments so they can dream on.

One doubts the manager's job of Terry Venables is at risk — yet — but there is no doubting the importance of Tottenham Hotspur's replay against Nottingham Forest, despite attempts by Venables to play down the importance of the tie. Tottenham's season, like Forest's, rests upon the result of this match.

Tottenham will need to be on their guard against Forest's counter attacks which are liable to make them a more dangerous proposition than they were a week ago at the City Ground, when they lost a two-goal lead to Tottenham's spirited fight back. Tottenham are optimistic that Van den Hauwe will recover in time

from a groin strain. Quite unexpected, though, is the recovery of Stewart Robson, the versatile West Ham United player, who has declared himself fit for the replay against Derby County at the Baseball Ground after playing just 45 minutes in 18 months.

Robson suffered a serious pelvic injury in September, 1988 and underwent an operation three months later. He played the first half of a reserve game on January 13. Lou Macari, the West Ham United manager, said: "It's typical of a hard, gutsy player like Stewart that he should declare himself ready to help out in what is a desperate situation for us. Naturally I hope that we will not have to throw him in at the deep end at Derby."

West Ham, for whom Parri, Devosier, Rosier and Slater face fitness tests, also included Milne, who is on loan from Manchester United, in their squad. Derby have a doubt about the fitness of Pickering.

Southampton, who meet Oldham Athletic in their quarter-final, look likely to abandon the experiment of including three centre backs, Osman, Ruddock and Moore, in their line-up. Dodd could reclaim his place.

League acts over payment claims

By Louise Taylor

The Football League confirmed yesterday that it was investigating serious claims for irregular payments to players.

A League spokesman revealed it is inquiring into a possible breach of regulation 67, which dictates that all payments made to players must be included in their contracts. If the allegations are proved, Swindon, the club's chairman, and Lou Macari, the former manager, with breaching its betting regulations. Hillier has admitted that he placed money against his own team to lose an FA Cup tie.

The spokesman added that the League had also received correspondence from the Football Association concerning a separate allegation that £3,000 had been distributed by the club in a manner at odds with league regulations.

Meanwhile, police were investigating claims that Dave King, the former club secretary, who was dismissed last week, had received above telephone calls at his Wiltshire home. Superintendent Glen Symes denied suggestions that his officers were tapping King's phone, and said: "Mr King made a complaint, but after looking into it we are not doing anything."

Gregory joins Argyle

John Gregory, dismissed as manager of Portsmouth earlier this month after 50 weeks in charge at Fratton Park, has signed a short-term contract with Plymouth Argyle as a player at the age of 35.

He will play a testimonial match against Tottenham Hotspur on Friday and will be under consideration for a place

in the Argyle team for the second division match against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Home Park on February 3.

Ken Brown, the Plymouth manager, whose side have won only once since mid-October, said: "We go for experience because we need a wise head in our situation."

Elton John remains chairman

The second attempt by Elton John, the chairman of Watford, to sell his 33 per cent shareholding in the second division club has collapsed.

Negotiations for the sale of the millionaire pop singer's shares to two London businessmen, Charles Lissack and Nicholas Wignall, already charged through, which means that John's 13-year reign as the club's chairman will continue.

Few details were disclosed when the deal was first made public in early December and the reasons for the breakdown have not been revealed. John was in Australia last night to prepare for the first performance of his world tour. But he sent a message confirming his continued support for Watford. He added: "As always, my primary interest will be the secure, sound and successful running of the club."

Steve Williams, the former England midfielder, has been transferred to Luton Town, the first division club, after failing to retain a first-team position.

Luton confirmed yesterday that Stoke City, managed by Alan Ball, a former teammate of Williams at Southampton and Arsenal, had not made an offer.

Dave Madden, the Crystal Palace midfielder, is on the verge of signing for Birmingham City, the third division club, after joining them on a month's loan. The clubs have agreed an undisclosed fee which is below the £80,000 Birmingham were quoted when they tried to sign Madden last season.



Calm anticipation: Ian Bowyer, the Hereford manager, surveys the Edgar St ground

Manchester United visit is a doddle to Hereford manager

By Peter Ball

While Alex Ferguson endures another traumatic week as manager of Manchester United, his opposite number in Sunday's fourth-round cup tie, Ian Bowyer, of Hereford United, is perhaps the most relaxed man in the market town.

With over 600 League games under his belt as a player, the last majority for Nottingham Forest in their seven years, Bowyer has seen it all before, and if he is finding life as a manager in the lower reaches of the fourth division something of a shock, he is refusing to let it rattle him.

Not even five consecutive home league defeats — hardly the ideal preparation for the visit of United, even in their state of disarray — has disturbed his equanimity, and he has not even bothered to phone Brian Clough, his old boss, for advice.

"I know what they are capable of, I played against United for 10 years, the last time 2½ years ago, and the players have changed, but I don't think the product has changed that much," he said yesterday afternoon in his little office underneath the main stand.

"They would beat us eight times out of 10. We might get a draw once and we might even win once. What we don't know is when that tenth time will occur. But what I do know is that when you are low in confidence, as they looked at Norwich on Sunday, and you've got to go to a fourth division ground where you are expected to win, it is not something you relish."

"At 12.45 on Sunday I know

FA CUP

happened to the club for years." Bowyer confessed, in between trying to organize some of his 15-man squad to go to a local hairdresser's to have their photographs taken as part of a new sponsorship deal.

Everybody is suddenly wanting to know Hereford United, and the manager is finding that football is occupying only a small part of his time. Not that he is complaining.

"Our biggest battle has been to overcome local apathy. We had to go out and beg and battle for sponsorship before this, but since the draw was announced sponsors are approaching us."

If anything, United's visit has stirred up the local much, with the pressure for tickets exacerbated by the decision, taken on police advice, to give United half the 13,000 tickets.

Yesterday the office staff spent the morning fielding angry calls from the disappointed, and three people came in to five minutes at lunchtime to complain in person.

The manager was phlegmatic. "Perhaps it would have helped if 10,000 of the 13,000 had been Hereford fans rather than a 50-50 split," he reflected. "But having the ground full instead of the normal 2,500 to 3,000 should excite our players enough."

"And 99 per cent of the regular 3,000 supporters have been a ticket. The ones who are complaining are people who don't come regularly. How many will be at our next league match?"

"It is the biggest thing that has

Hardy may not be too much at home against Canizales

By Sri Kumar Sea, Boxing Correspondent

If Billy Hardy, even with home advantage, wins the International Boxing Federation bantamweight title at the Crowtree Leisure Centre, Sunderland, tonight, he will exceed the achievement of Lloyd Honeyghan when he lifted the world welterweight championship by stopping Don Curry in Atlantic City three years ago.

For while it may be a long way from the streets of Laredo to the streets of Sunderland, Orlando Canizales, the champion, always likes to go home by the short route. He has 24 wins in 26 contests (the other two being a defeat by Paul Gonzalez, the Olympic flyweight champion, and a draw), 22 have ended inside the distance.

The 23-year-old Texan is regarded by Americans as the Roberto Duran of the 1990s. Some even consider him better than Duran, the world lightweight champion. "And he is improving all the time," his trainer, Jesse Reid, says. So it seems that Hardy, a swimming coach attendant at the centre, has been thrown in at the deep end. His task looks as daunting as those of Minier and Watt when facing Hagler and Arguello.

It is just as well that Hardy has his home crowd behind him. He has his manager, Dennis Mancini, a Londoner, and trainer, who has helped him to his first-round knockout of Brian Holmes, his man had improved sufficiently to take on Canizales.

"The improvement was clear," Mancini said. "Since Hardy had taken 10 rounds to beat Holmes three years ago, I knew he was ready. Canizales is tough, but I thought we could not wait. Canizales could be there for years or the next

champion could be even better. I felt Hardy could win if I could give him a chance in front of his own people. So I went about finding a home venue."

Mancini, whose connections with North-East boxers go back 26 years when he was introduced to George Bowes by an old footballing friend, Ken Craggs, is highly regarded in the area and has no difficulty in selling the bout to the Crowtree Centre and Mickey Duff, the London promoter.

"From tapes, we had seen that Canizales could be caught and cut up," Mancini said. "And since Hardy has a superb bantamweight punch, he has much harder than Canizales, who has come up from flyweight."

But Hardy, while stopping good names in Ray Gilbody, Hyland, Wallace and Holmes, was also easy to hit, as he found to his cost against Nanti and Prentas. He was too English in his style. So to have more relaxed and elusive Mancini sent him to his brother in South Africa, where he has been training under Richie Smith.

Hardy will need all the movement he can get for Reid feels that once faced with the problems his man is going to pose, Hardy will not be able to put his strategy into practice.

"He will return to his straight-up-and-down style," Reid said. "We have seen him on video. He is very brave, too brave for his own good. He can get really beat up. His style is built for a boxer who does not have to be hit but to hit. Orlando is a master of angles, which gives a man like Hardy very little chance."

If either side is correct in its assessment, the bout should be over by the middle rounds.

Lewis targets five titles on the road

By Bryan Stiles

Lennox Lewis, Britain's best boxer, is taking his show on the road, aiming to meet the people — and pick up five titles by the end of the year. It is part of a strategy he hopes will get him into the ring with Mike Tyson, the world champion, in less than three years.

He is embarking on an exacting, bout-a-month schedule, starting next week, and the titles he has in mind this year are the British, Commonwealth, European, Canadian and International Boxing Federation continental.

Lewis, who is aged 23, enjoys dual nationality, having been born in London and raised in Canada, so it is no surprise that the first title he has in his sights is the Canadian, which is probably the easiest to win, it is hoped in June.

Frank Maloney, his manager, is travelling to Alberta this weekend to see Tony Morrison, the Canadian champion, take on the challenge of Ken Lukatski.

Maloney is hoping to persuade the trainer to accommodate unbeaten Lewis in the summer.

His more daunting ambition is to meet the winner of the Gary Mason vs. Deshaun Carter test and relieve him of the British, European and Commonwealth titles at the Albert Hall in October. He also hopes to fit in an International Boxing Federation continental title bout before the year is out.

First, Lewis has to see off Noel Quivran, of Liverpool, at York Hall, Bethnal Green, next Wednesday. It is his opening gambit in his meet-the-people programme, which will take him to Crystal Palace, Newcastle, Toronto, Doncaster, Glasgow, the Albert Hall, Manchester and Birmingham.

"He will be accessible to the fight public all over Britain, and they will see him progress," Maloney said. "I have never last seen a British heavyweight go out and meet the people like that?"

MOTOR RALLYING

Tight finish in prospect

Monte Carlo (Reuters) — Didier Auriol, of France, and Carlos Sainz, of Spain, headed for a tight finish in the Monte Carlo rally when they ended the penultimate stage yesterday separated by only four seconds.

The decision between Auriol's Lancia and Sainz's

Toyota will be decided in the final stage.

LEADERS AFTER 18th special stage: 1. D. Auriol (Fr), Lancia, 40 min 28 sec; 2. C. Sainz (Sp), Toyota, 40 min 32 sec; 3. M. Mikkola (Fin), Lancia, 40 min 35 sec; 4. D. C. Sainz (Sp), Lancia, 40 min 38 sec; 5. A. Sainz (Sp), Lancia, 40 min 41 sec; 6. J. Sainz (Sp), Lancia, 40 min 44 sec; 7. J. Sainz (Sp), Lancia, 40 min 47 sec; 8. J. Sainz (Sp), Lancia, 40 min 50 sec; 9. J. Sainz (Sp), Lancia, 40 min 53 sec; 10. J. Sainz (Sp), Lancia, 40 min 56 sec.

TABLE TENNIS

Selection gamble a failure

By Richard Eaton

England slipped deeper into relegation trouble in the European Superleague when they lost to a talented Yugoslavian team in the mountain town of Vranje yesterday. The selection gamble of naming Carl Frenn, the leading player, in favour of Skyler Andrew, the England No. 4, failed, and the resulting 6-1 setback was England's fourth defeat in five matches.

Andrew, however, often played well. He gave England just a glimmer of hope when he led 13-9 in the second game of the opening contest, against Zoran Primorac, the Yugoslav No. 1, before going down 17-21, 19-21. Later, in a dead contest against Hristu Lupulescu, he was also beaten in straight games.

The two young Yugoslavs made light of Monday's eight-hour journey immediately after the European Cup. Top 12 tournament in Hanover. Both played excellently.

They both gained straight-games victories over Alan Cooke, the English national champion, and they were unstoppable in the doubles.

The only consolation for Donald Farber, the England captain, was that his other calculated gamble — that of picking Fiona Elliott, the England No. 3 — worked well.

Elliott beat Sana Fazlic, the European No. 13, 21-13, 21-18, thus repeating the victory she gained in the French Open.

"To have had a chance of winning Alan Cooke needed to produce his best form and unfortunately this wasn't the case," Farber said.

IRVING

Irving re-establishes herself

Liz Irving, a talented but mercurial Brisbane girl rather forgotten in the recent rush of young talent from the Australian Institute of Squash, is utilizing the new SRA women's superleague to re-establish her reputation.

At the head of a weak IMS Continental squad, which is struggling in the league, Irving has inflicted stunning defeats in successive weeks upon Lucy Soutter, the national champion playing at first string for UTC Cannons, and Martine Le Moignan, the world champion who leads Yellow Pages Caversham.

Significantly, the only leading English player to resist Irving in league matches this year has been Lisa Opie, the equally unpredictable world and national No. 2, whose skilful five-game 2-1 home loss was just enough to keep Reckob Nottingham at the top of the table.

Irving defeated Le Moignan 9-2, 9-6, 9-3 in only half an hour. If the world champion was still suffering from back problems,

SQUASH RACKETS

which caused her to pull up against Michelle Martin, the first-stringer for Coletts, last week, it did not show in her court movement.

"I played very well against her," Irving said. "I usually do." The record shows it.

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SKING

A wealthy sun-tran for Britons

By Louise Taylor

The British freestyle team yesterday announced a sponsorship which will provide the financial bedrock for the team's preparation for the 1992 Winter Olympics in Albertville, France.

The three-year agreement with Laboratoire Garnier means that the 10-strong mixed team is now named after one of the company's brand leaders, Ambre Solaire, the sun-tan lotion.

Essentially free, or acrobatic, skiing, freestyle comprises three events, ballet, aerials and moguls. All three disciplines qualified for a demonstration sport in the 1988 Winter Olympics at Calgary. At Albertville the moguls will be acknowledged as a full Olympic sport. Aerials and ballet should gain complete status in time for the 1994 Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway.

The signing of the contract was applauded by Colin Moyihan, the Minister for Sport, who said: "Garnier are to be congratulated and I hope that their decision to help Britain's young skiers will act as a spur to other companies to follow suit."

"This news is a vindication of the policy I have always advocated; if sports governing bodies strive to provide themselves with market appeal, then commercial enterprises will be encouraged to provide them with financial backing."

Britain's chief medal hopes rest with Jilly Curry, the British women's champion and silver medal winner at the World Ski Cup held recently at Breckenridge, Colorado.

VEYSONNAZ — Richard Kröll won his second successive World Cup giant slalom yesterday and led Austrian skiers to another sweep of top three places. (Reuters reports) Kröll proved his first upset World Cup victory in La Villa, Italy, on January 14 was no fluke.

ATHLETICS

DIETRICH, Luxembourg European Cross-country champion. 1. V. Rousseau (Bel), 31 min 31 sec; 2. W. Willems (Bel), 31 min 32 sec; 3. A. Dierckx (Bel), 31 min 33 sec; 4. R. Vermeir (Bel), 31 min 34 sec; 5. A. Dierckx (Bel), 31 min 35 sec; 6. A. Dierckx (Bel), 31 min 36 sec; 7. A. Dierckx (Bel), 31 min 37 sec; 8. A. Dierckx (Bel), 31 min 38 sec; 9. A. Dierckx (Bel), 31 min 39 sec; 10. A. Dierckx (Bel), 31 min 40 sec.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Phoenix Suns 108, Los Angeles Clippers 104. Sacramento Kings 124, Houston Rockets 115. Denver Nuggets 106, San Antonio Spurs 124. Dallas Mavericks 115, New York Knicks 104. Los Angeles Lakers 115, Boston Celtics 104. Chicago Bulls 115, Miami Heat 104. New Jersey Nets 104, Philadelphia 76ers 104. Washington Wizards 104, New York Knicks 104. Cleveland Cavaliers 104, Detroit Pistons 104. Indiana Pacers 104, Orlando Magic 104. Charlotte Hornets 104, Miami Heat 104. Atlanta Hawks 104, Boston Celtics 104. Utah Jazz 104, Los Angeles Lakers 104. Memphis Grizzlies 104, New York Knicks 104. Portland Trail Blazers 104, San Antonio Spurs 104. Minnesota Timberwolves 104, Dallas Mavericks 104. New Orleans Hornets 104, Houston Rockets 104. San Diego Clippers 104, Los Angeles Lakers 104. Golden State Warriors 104, Phoenix Suns 104. Sacramento Kings 104, Houston Rockets 104. New York Knicks 104, Los Angeles Lakers 104. Chicago Bulls 104, Miami Heat 104. 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